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MVA joins Japan's largest travel show. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

8th drowning victim this year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit divers recovered the body of a man who reportedly drowned while spear fishing outside the reef of San Antonio Beach yesterday afternoon.

DPS Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero confirmed the incident with *Saipan Tribune* last night, describing the victim as an "Oriental" male.

Guerrero said Boating Safety Unit divers retrieved the body from underwater outside the reef near Pacific Islands Club between 4:30pm to 5pm.

Guerrero said the initial informa-

See DROWNING on Page 4

Torres: Priority is to give NMI retirees full benefits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Bronster says govt position that Settlement Fund is component of govt unacceptable

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres assured the federal court yesterday that his priority is not just to give retirees 75 percent of their benefits, but also the 25 percent payments owed them.

As this developed, Betty Johnson's lead counsel, Margery Bronster, described as "simply unacceptable and wrong" for the CNMI government to say that the Settlement Fund is a component unit of the government.

Deputy attorney general Lillian Tenorio pointed out that, in a stipu-

See TORRES on Page 4

'Largest budget in NMI history'

ERWIN ENCINARES
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs the fiscal year 2018 budget while Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog documents the scene through his handheld device and House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) looks on.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

» $212.6 in budgetary resources
» $145.2M available for appropriation

With over $212.6 million in identified resources, last Tuesday's newly enacted spending plan for the CNMI government was the largest budget ever in the history of the CNMI, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Minus funds set aside for constitutional and statutory mandates, the

See BUDGET on Page 4

'Revamped' retroactive lump sum measure heads to Torres

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A second attempt to allocate funds for retroactive lump-sum payments to government employees stuck at Step 12 finally succeeded in passing the Senate last Tuesday. It now heads to the desk of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

The House of Representatives earlier recalled the bill after Torres refused to enact it for failing to identify a funding source.

The Office of Personnel Manage-

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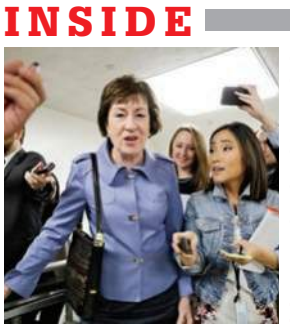
INSIDE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Senate Republicans abandon their latest attempt to kill Obamacare.
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Suddenly, just about all President Donald Trump can talk about is Puerto Rico.
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Eleven years after, "Will & Grace" is making an unprecedented return.
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Local

‘Turning bright ideas into business’

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

That was the primary aim of the CNMI Department of Commerce when it hosted the 2017 Business Summit yesterday at Pacific Island Club’s Charley’s Cabaret.

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman, with the support of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the entire department, stressed this with current business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs at the summit’s start.

“We are very fortunate that for such a short time frame, we were able to put this together. We’ve had a lot positive feedback from the public and private sector. We have a lot inquiries and sponsors. Their willingness to see this come to full circle is a very positive sign because it means that there is really a need out there,” said Rabauliman.

Now is the right time to start a business, he said.

“We are growing. There is a lot of opportunity. While there is an opportunity for big and small businesses, it is important to note that there is definitely an opportunity for new businesses. This is why Commerce was compelled to host this,” he said.

The summit’s topics, Rabauliman said, were carefully chosen and will be presented by speakers who are knowledgeable and equipped with their vast experience in business and policymaking.

“We are bringing together

See TURNING on Page 4

Young entrepreneurs from Chicken & Beer Cafe and Pacific Hardware

BEA CABRERA

Former Labor secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero, right, and colleagues graced the 2017 Business Summit.

BEA CABRERA

Women in business attend the 2017 Business Summit.

BEA CABRERA

From left, Tina Crisostomo, Cil Selepeo, Ivan Ilmov, and Tatiana Ilmova.

BEA CABRERA

Matthew Deleon Guerrero joins Saipan Brewing Co.’s Steven Sablan and Jay Wolf and summit guests.

BEA CABRERA

From left, Kevin Bautista, T.J. DLC Manglona, and Joe Ayuyu Jr.

BEA CABRERA

Business Summit speakers Anne Hayes of Herman’s Modern Bakery, left, and Arielle Buyum of Latte Training Academy.

BEA CABRERA

Philip Mendiola-Long of Bridge Investment, Don Browne of Imperial Pacific International, Perry Inos Jr. of Triple J, and Alex Sablan of TanHoldings Corp. talk about business opportunities in the CNMI.

BEA CABRERA

From left, Maria White, Oscar Camacho, Karla Mareham, and Joan Torres.

BEA CABRERA

Christopher Concepcion of the Marianas Visitors Association is joined by several business people.

BEA CABRERA

From left, Diego Kaipat, Tonie Tudela, Donna Cabrera, and Henry Hofschneider.

BEA CABRERA

From left, Jovan Fred, Tanya Salas, Vera Kelley, Carmen Villagomez, Susan Escueta, and Sylbis Daguitan

BEA CABRERA

From left, Tanya Salas, Nida Palconiy, Abegail Vicedo, and Melony David.

BEA CABRERA

NEW BOOKS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First lady Diann Torres and volunteers of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation present copies of books *I Lina'la Hu* and *Hafa Si-nentete-Mu?* to Dandan Middle School principal Lynn Mendiola, vice principal Rio Arriola, Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies coordinator Jonas Barcinas, and Jackie Quitugua to be included in the school's library. Both books are on sale for $10 at the Lady Diann Torres Foundation office in Susupe. Proceeds of the sale of both books will fund the 2nd Annual LDTF Language in Literacy Young Author's Competition winning entries. For details, call 235-5838(LDTF) or email ladydianntorres@gmail.com.

Hunter: DCCA in much better shape

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs was given a nearly 18-percent increase in its 2018 fiscal year budget compared to its budget last fiscal year and, according to DCCA Secretary Robert, that puts his department in better shape.

"There were minor changes made to the DCCA budget but I think we're in much better shape than we've been in many, many years," said Hunter.

The department consists of 10 different branches with individual programs.

Hunter, who was present at the budget signing last Tuesday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, said the bump in their budget allows them to continue with their community assistance and programs.

"Each division has its own priorities, programs, and services…[and with the increase] we will be able to provide better services that we weren't providing before," he said.

For fiscal year 2018, the department was appropriated $3,014,448—a 17-percent increase compared to the $2,568,443 it got last fiscal year.

Aside from the general projects and programs that the department proposed funds for, Hunter said his proposed budget also included a request for funding that will give the department the capability to get the human remains that are stored in the local museum storage analyzed and re-interred, since they have been in storage for nearly 20 years.

"It has been included, up to a particular point," said Hunter.

The department was appropriated $1,923,543 for its 72 employed personnel, $887,754 for overall operations, and $203,151 to cover the cost of utilities.

Hunter said that that, fortunately, there weren't any major cuts to their department and they were able to receive a little more than what they originally proposed and what they had negotiated for with the Office of Management and Budget.

Man allegedly beats up wife inside car

A 32-year-old man allegedly beat up his wife inside their car on Saipan after an argument about $4 to pay for gas last Thursday.

Raymond Mafnas Palacios was arrested on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

A police officer who arrived at the home of the alleged victim at 5:22pm saw her crying.

A $5,000 cash bail was initially imposed on Palacios. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as his counsel. Preliminary hearing will be on Oct. 3 at 1:30pm.

The alleged victim told police that she and Palacios were on their way to the Bank of Guam in Chalan Piao at 3:30pm when an argument erupted inside the vehicle.

In the course of the argument, Palacios allegedly hit her twice in the left ear and in the head. He also allegedly drove fast and made abrupt lane changes, while yelling profanities at her.

She told a relative about what happened. Police arrived at 5pm that day and arrested Palacios. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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BUDGET

From Page 1

CNMI Legislature had over $145.2 million that was available for appropriation.

In signing the fiscal year 2018 budget bill last Tuesday, Torres said the measure also accomplishes several things.

For one, it allocated a total of $56 million to retirees, $45 million of which is directed to the Settlement Fund for the minimum annual payment of benefits as per a previous settlement agreement between the CNMI government and the Settlement Fund.

A provision that would have resulted in an indirect cut the Marianas Visitors Authority's budget was vetoed.

The Senate had proposed getting $500,000 from the MVA budget to procure batwing mower tractors, one each for Rota and Tinian, but Torres disapproved the provision. He said the tractors would be procured using funds from other resources.

Despite this, MVA is still directed to purchase a fire pumper truck for the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, worth $450,000, and pay $69,435 to the Public School System's Cooperative Education Program to promote its tourism-related programs.

The Judiciary saw an increase of 11.1 percent in its budget compared to fiscal year 2017. In fiscal year 2018, the Judiciary will get $6.6 million; it received over $5.9 million in the previous fiscal year.

The Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections, and DFEMS each received substantial bumps in their budgets compared to last year.

DPS will get over $6.4 million in funding for fiscal year 2018, a 7.8-percent increase compared to its previous fiscal year budget of roughly $6 million.

DOC will get over $5.2 million in fiscal year 2018, a 15-percent increase over its previous budget of roughly $4.5 million.

DFEMS will receive over $4 million in fiscal year 2018, a 2.3-percent increase compared to its previous budget of roughly $3.9 million. Though it will get the smallest increase of the three, DFEMS would also be getting a new fire pumper truck worth $450,000 from MVA.

One of the more noteworthy accomplishments of the new budget is the redirection of where the CW fees collected from every renewed CW visa would go.

CW fees fund workforce educational programs in the CNMI, which includes programs offered by the Latte Training Academy, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, the Northern Marianas College, and more. The CNMI Scholarship Office would now be administering the CW fees instead of the Department of Labor.

"By redirecting the administration of CW fees through the CNMI Scholarship Office, it will allow the administration to not only achieve greater transparency with the disbursement of the funds, but would also allow the scholarship office to develop a plan that accurately indicates the Commonwealth's goals of achieving a benchmark of educated and skilled workers," said press secretary Kevin Bautista in a statement, adding that the Legislature previously questioned the disbursement of funds.

The budget also addressed payments of government's liabilities, including judgments and settlement agreements amounting to $1 million.

"This underscores the administration's commitment to addressing the government's longstanding obligations in a fiscally sustainable matter," added Bautista in the statement.

REVAMPED

From Page 1

ment had also added more names to the list, bumping up the appropriation to $1.41 million, forcing the House to introduce some changes.

The Senate acted Tuesday on House Bill 20-108 HD1, HS1, a substitute to the former bill, adding people to the list as well as specifically citing the "Saipan casino licensee's gross revenue tax" as the origin of the funding.

The substitute bill passed the House in a session last week.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), the author of the bill and chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the original bill addressed 330 employees whose wages were stuck at Step 12 during the financial austerity measures in the early 2000s.

"This communication that came late would be in reference to the additional seven more employees, resulting in an impact of additional $17,545," Demapan said.

"From the get go, more than 300 were left behind. We are hoping this is the final batch," said Demapan, adding that every time employees are added to the list it requires the House to identify the funding to address the need.

"If the funding is not available, it puts these employees in a long waiting period, which is not fair," he said.

TORRES

From Page 1

lation about the assets of the Settlement Fund in December 2016, the stipulation states that the Settlement Fund disagreed with the government's determination that the Settlement Fund is a component of the government for tax purposes.

In the stipulation the government confirmed that the government and NMI Retirement Fund do not possess any interest in the Settlement Fund's assets.

"We are not dealing with the Settlement Fund assets. We are interested only in the liability portion," said Tenorio at the hearing.

Torres appeared in court yesterday for a status conference in Johnson's class action, at the direction of U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood.

Torres told the court that he and Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang had a "very fruitful dialogue" on how they are going to move forward on the Johnson settlement agreement.

Saying the administration's and the Legislature's priority is not just to give 75 percent but also 25 percent of benefits payments, Torres said the government remitted to the Settlement Fun $15.1 million for fiscal year 2016, plus $13.5 million for the retirees' 25 percent benefit payments.

The 25 percent benefit payment and bonus payment to retirees are voluntary payments from the government. They were not required under the settlement agreement.

Torres thanked the late governor Eloy S. Inos for settling the Johnson class action.

"Here we are. We just paid $7.5 million to the Settlement Fund a couple of weeks ago," the governor said, adding that it is time for the administration and the Legislature to sit down in order to pay the obligations to the retirees.

"At the end of the day, we need to meet the obligations," Torres said, adding that the government wants to give retirees tranquility.

"We're good in our promises," he said.

Tydingco-Gatewood said this type of case needs good governance from the administration and the Legislature and lauded Tang for being fair and aggressive in protecting the Settlement Fund.

She said the Torres administration is responsive and transparent in meeting its payments to the Settlement Fund.

"You make our job easier here in the Judiciary," the judge told the governor.

"Governor, good luck to you and I hope that the CNMI will continue to prosper," Tydingco-Gatewood added.

The judge said the CNMI is actually making itself a role model in the retirement fund community.

She commended Bronster, Tang, Inos, Torres, the Legislature, and others involved in the Johnson lawsuit.

Torres said later in an interview it is easier for the government to meet its obligations in the settlement agreement due to the Legislature's priority and the fact that the CNMI's economy is doing well.

"Every additional revenue as you have seen last year we gave a bonus to retirees," he said.

Torres said they look forward to giving retirees a bonus again this year.

"It is our obligation make sure that we fulfill that obligation. That they can sleep at night, [knowing] that their retirement fund is not in jeopardy," he said.

As the CNMI continues to get higher revenue, the government continues to give additional funds to the retirees, Torres said.

He said they gave the Settlement Fund $7 million a month ago and that they are looking at giving it another $11.5 million next year.

"We are meeting our projection. The fact that we are paying more than the settlement agreement means our economy is doing good," Torres said.

On the issue of the government's determination that the Settlement Fund is a component of the government, Bronster said it is because of the government's audit, so such information was needed.

"This is not a simple information gathering. It has far-reaching implications. This is dangerous to the Settlement Fund," said Bronster as she read the settlement agreement's provisions.

Bronster said they don't believe that the Settlement Fund can be a part or component of the government.

Tang agreed with Bronster.

Tenorio said they will discuss the matter with the auditors.

DROWNING

From Page 1

tion he received was that Division of Fish and Wildlife personnel were patrolling the San Antonio beach area when they spotted an unattended fishing gear floating outside the reef line.

He said Fish and Wildlife personnel then investigated as to why a spear gun and a buoy were floating unattended. The Fish and Wildlife personnel discovered the body underwater between 2pm and 3pm. DPS Boating Safety was then called and the rescue boat was launched.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority Harbor Patrol also responded to the scene.

Guerrero said Boating Safety divers retrieved the body and transported it to the Commonwealth Health Center.

DPS is expected to release more details about the incident to the media today, Wednesday.

Based on *Saipan Tribune* records, that would make this latest case the eighth ocean/beach drowning this year on Saipan.

Last Sept. 17, Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services Rescue swimmers found the body of 21-year-old Aiwayne Sagun, who was reported missing after he went swimming, but was pulled out to the ocean by the strong current at Bird Island in Marpi a day before.

Police said Sagun asked his female friend to take a video of him jumping into the water and swimming to shore, but he could not swim back to safety as the strong current swept him out to the sea.

Last Aug. 29, a 33-year-old Korean woman drowned when she and her brother got swept to the sea while swimming outside the reef at Obyan Beach, south of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The brother survived by swimming back inside the reef.

Last July 16, a 26-year-old man who went fishing with a companion was later found dead, believed to be due to drowning, in the ocean near the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Last June 13, a 15-year-old Korean male student reportedly drowned while spearfishing at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa. DFEMS and DPS Boating Section Unit personnel found the boy's body floating in the channel.

Last May 4, a 71-year-old Korean man drowned while swimming at the beach of Kensington Hotel in San Roque, while a 50-year-old Japanese man also drowned while scuba diving at Laulau Bay.

Last Jan. 26, 53-year-old Isidro Wabol, who had gone swimming, was later found dead outside the reef at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa.

TURNING

From Page 2

the big businesses and small businesses, our local leaders to speak and expand what they are doing up in the hill to create laws, to foster the entrepreneurial spirit. We also have the banks [and] the Commonwealth Development Authority participating," he said.

Marie Cabrera, a housewife said: "I don' t have a business yet, just ideas. I want to get into the food business or dog shelter business. The reason why I came here is that maybe I will be able to get ideas and know how I can start."

People like Cabrera are the major target market of the summit. Rabauliman knows that starting a business can be a scary process.

"There is a tremendous amount of uncertainty. There is an inherent risk but also tremendous reward. There's freedom, flexibility, and building something the way you want to," he said.

"I hope that the insight, inspiration, and professional network that participants gain from today's event will help them start down the road of starting their own business. Hopefully this summit empowers them to have that leap of faith. That's the whole premise of this event," he added.

Rabauliman hopes that this year's summit will be one of many so they can close the gap between seasoned business people and neophytes, and foster networking and relationships.

"We are going to use this first summit as a baseline to grow. For businesses, this is an opportunity to hear their challenges and maybe become an inspiration for beginners. Hopefully, the topics will spark an idea that will make them say 'Oh there's my niche!'" he said.

‘Except for PSS, CHCC, most are current with Fund’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Except for the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the CNMI government and its autonomous agencies are current with their payments to the Settlement Fund, according to Joyce C. H. Tang.

In her report to the court, Tang, as trustee of the Settlement Fund, said that PSS owes the Fund $212,239 in employer contributions covering the period from fiscal years 2014 through 2016, ending Sept. 2, 2017.

For the same period, CHCC owes $98,938 in employer contributions, she said.

Tang said these outstanding employer contributions arise from a March 10, 2016, order of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, which interpreted a provision of the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson’s class action to require the CNMI government and autonomous agencies to pay contributions at the same rates they were paying as of June 26, 2013.

This was among the issues that Tang discussed in a report she filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on the Settlement Fund’s investment accounts for fiscal year 2016 through the third quarter of fiscal year 2017.

Prior to the March 10 order, Tang said, the CNMI government and all autonomous agencies were paying the employer contributions at the rate of 30 percent because it was the rate that applied as of June 26, 2013 (as required under Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo’s Aug. 22, 2011, order).

Tang said the district court, however, disagreed and found that the contributions should be based on the contribution rates the CNMI government and its autonomous agencies were paying as of June 26, 2013.

She said the district court’s March 10 order affected the contribution rates of the government, the Tinian Mayor’s Office, CHCC, and PSS, all of which are now paying employer contributions at the increased rate of 37.39 percent instead of the lower 30 percent rate they were paying as of June 26, 2013.

The Northern Marianas College’s contribution rate remains at 20 percent. All other agencies are required to pay employer contributions at the 30 percent rate set by Govendo’s order.

Tang said the amounts owed by PSS and CHCC represent the difference between the 30 percent rate and the 37.39 rate that they should have been paying from fiscal years 2014 through 2016.

CHCC has entered into a payment plan to pay the outstanding amount in equal payments by June 2018.

Tang said that PSS has stated that it will enter into a payment plan once its confirms the outstanding amount due.

She said the government and the Tinian Mayor’s Office are current with their payment obligations.

Celebrating over 70 years of national workforce inclusion

The National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which the CNMI will observe this October, celebrates more than 70 years of workforce inclusion and innovation. This year’s theme is “Inclusion Drives Innovation.”

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said: “Diversity is an important role in workforce success and this year, and the Office of Disability Employment Policy celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and moves to strengthen the value of an inclusive workforce. We also understand that this is one of many avenues with regard to increasing the CNMI labor workforce. It’s important we celebrate its significance.”

Early this year, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation reiterated the importance of gainful employment for their clients and the strengthening of the community partnerships and collaboration with the State Rehabilitation Council.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said that disability employment has improved over the years, and more employees and employers are better equipped for employment and accommodations.

“The right to live independently by providing opportunities for employment is still very important. Partnerships with the private sector and agencies like OVR, [Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.], [Workforce Investment Agency], and other training programs advocate this as we continue to build on addressing our workforce needs and reaching our ultimate vision to increase the number of our local workforce so that our economy continues to grow and more opportunities are available for every person willing to work for it,” Torres said.

Benavente noted that disability employment will continue to strengthen through consistent awareness and partnerships.

Torres added that ODEP reinforces the Americans with Disabilities Act, which works to increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life, including employment while encouraging the adoption of effective policies and practices.

For more information, log on to www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/. ***(PR)***

NEWS BRIEFS

9 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged nine Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

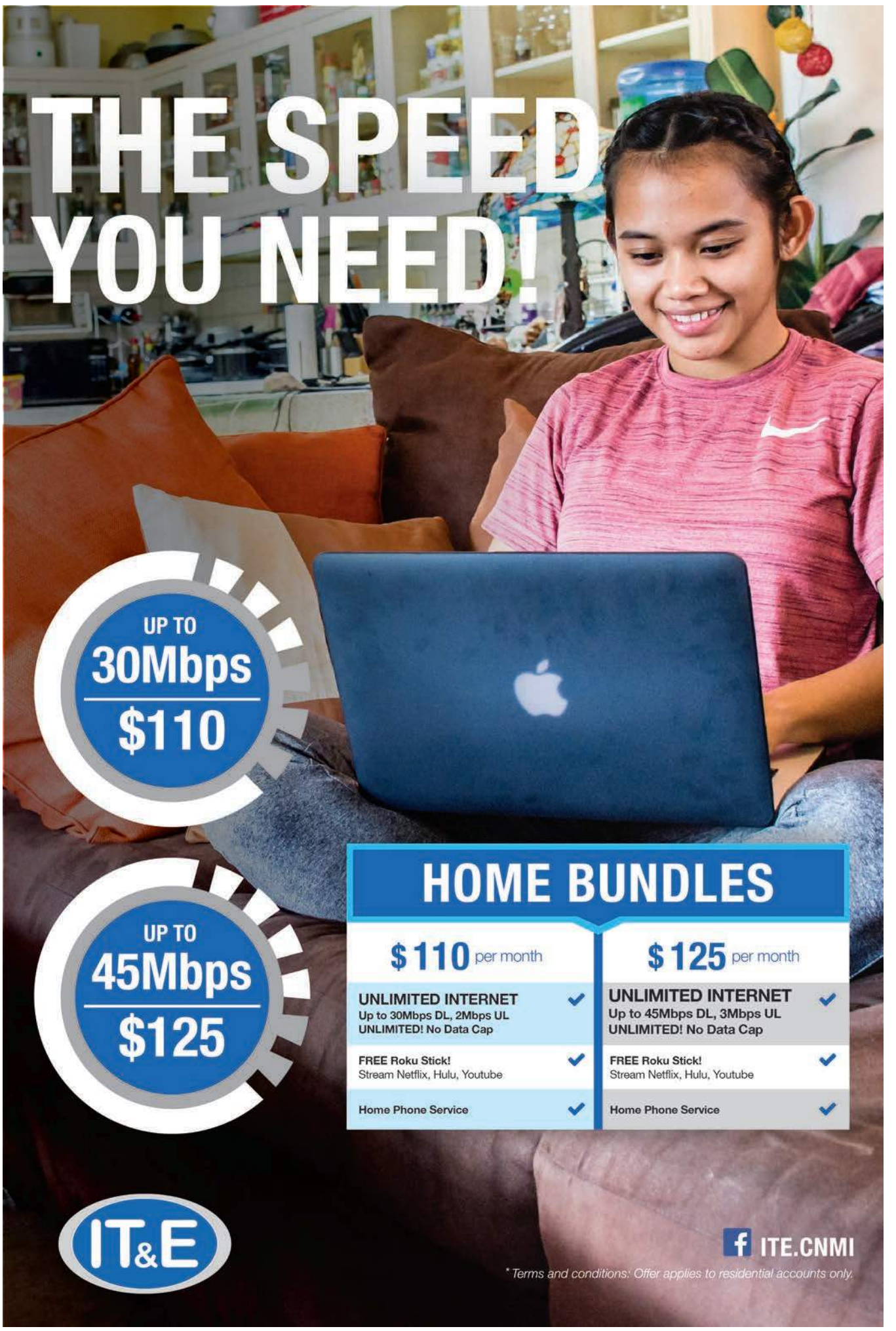
The affected sites are beaches adjacent to the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park, Grandvrio, the Garapan Fishing Dock, Sugar Dock, CK District 4 Lally Beach, American Memorial Park, Hafa-Adai drainage 2, Garapan Beach, and CK District 2 drainage.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. ***(DEQ)***

NMDC membership meeting

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. will have a general membership meeting on Oct. 3, from 6om to 7pm, at the Carolinian *utt*. The meeting’s agenda will cover public land leases, proposed land lease extensions, and the Northern Marianas Cultural Center.

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. board of directors meeting will take place on Oct. 9 at 9am at the Garapan Community Development Center. ***(PR)***



MVA joins Japan's largest travel show

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined representatives of 1,310 groups from 130 other international countries and regions and prefectures of Japan at Japan's largest annual travel show, called JATA Tourism Expo 2017, on Sept. 22-24, 2017.

The MVA's booth was easily recognizable during the event due to its tall structure featuring the "Marianas 30 Treasures" images of renowned nature photographer Junji Takasago.

The number of attendees increased this year compared to last, exceeding 191,500 attendees.

The JATA Tourism Expo 2017 was held at the Tokyo Big Sight and attracted national tourism agencies, airlines, hotels, travel agencies, cruise companies, other tourism professionals and the traveling public.

The MVA joined other exhibitors in providing the latest tourism information to visitors and professional members of the travel trade.

This year, over 50,000 attendees joined the event on the professional travel trade days, while over 74,000 and 66,800 consumers joined the final two days of the event.

MVA
The Marianas delegation participates in the JATA Tourism Expo 2017 on Sept. 22-24, 2017, in Tokyo.

"JATA Tourism Expo has always been the most important travel show in Japan, and the MVA continues to participate as we work to revive the Japan market," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "This year's booth and delegation created a very active, festive atmosphere with several different activities, including the first participation of Marianas-*chan*. This underscores our new image as the Marianas, and we will continue to work toward building a new base, a new generation of Japanese visitors who fall in love with Tthe Marianas."

At the MVA booth, representatives of the Marianas distributed promotional information, answered questions, and allowed attendees to participate in coconut oil making and crafting. Miss Marianas 2016 Peachy Quitugua, Marianas-*chan*, and Lily Pua performed on stage to the Marianas heartbreak classic *Jet Plane.* Also, the new promotional video, "The Marianas," and producer Yasunori Iwamoto presented on his filming experience on the islands. The previous Miss Marianas, Jian Joyner, also graced the display booth with her presence. Members of the Japan Saipan Travel Association and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands also manned the booth and helped spread the word about the Marianas to attendees.

The event is organized by the Japan Travel and Tourism Association and Japan Association of Travel Agents.

The JATA Tourism Expo is internationally recognized as one of the largest travel events in the world and presents Japan as a tourism nation to the world, further developing outbound, inbound and domestic travel by bringing together the combined strengths of not only the tourism industry, but all industries in Japan and its local communities.

The JATA Tourism Expo provides opportunities for travel professionals to exchange travel information and conduct effective business meetings, while inspiring consumers through the power of travel.

JATA Tourism Expo 2018 was held from Sept. 20-23, 2018, in Tokyo. ***(MVA)***

Matson extends scholarship deadline for NMC students

Northern Marianas College has announced that the deadline for submitting applications for the Matson Navigation Company Scholarship has been extended to Friday, Oct. 6, 2017, by 4pm at the Financial Aid Office.

The Matson Scholarship awards one $500 scholarship each to three deserving full-time NMC students pursuing either a bachelor's degree in business management or an associate degree in accounting during the 2017-2018 school year.

The scholarships are based on merit and will be awarded to the recipient on the basis of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, and letters of recommendation. The essay and interview (if necessary) will also play a key role in the final selection of scholarship recipients.

This 2017-2018 school year will be the second year the Matson Navigation Scholarship has offered its the scholarship awards to Northern Marianas College in assisting students with financial aid.

The company's contribution to NMC students is part of its ongoing mission to help communities by providing funds, material goods, or services to help improve the quality of life where their own employees live and work.

"We are grateful for Matson's commitment to our students and their educational journeys," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "The scholarship goes a long way in helping students pay for critical educational expenses."

Applications and additional information are available at the NMC Financial Aid Office or may be downloaded from the NMC website at www.marianas.edu. For more information or inquiries, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6791 or email Daisy Propst atdaisy.propst@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the Department of Public Lands will be closed on Friday September 29, 2017 for staff "Professional Development Day".

Our Office will resume its normal operations on Monday October 2, 2017.

Thank you.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 17-008
JANITORIAL SERVICES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Housekeeping and Cleaning Services for the As Terlaje Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Tuesday, Aug 30th, 2017 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Packages are due no later than 2:00 p.m., September 29, 2017, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- ANTONIO C. BARCINAS and RAMONA S.N. BARCINAS, Defendants) CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0130

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the court in this matter on September 15, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 018 B 159, situated in Tanapag, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 901 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 018 B 29, the original of which was recorded on July 17, 1997, as Document no. 97-1706, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 27, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 20th day of September, 2017.

/S/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of CANDELARIA S. KILELEMAN, and JULIET S. KILELEMAN, Defendants.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0024

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the court in this matter on September 15, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 015 D 38, situated in Sugar King Estates, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,000 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 015 D 00, the original of which was recorded on September 11, 1975, as Document no. 4841, at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 27, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 20th day of September, 2017.

S/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Grand Opening Raffle Promo

Mechanics: Effective SEPTEMBER 28 – NOVEMBER 30, 2017 for every Minimum $10 Purchase, entitles the customer for one (1) entry form. Every week, 2 winners will be chosen to receive $50.00 Gift Certificate while 1 winner will receive $100.00 Gift Certificate. Drawing of winner is scheduled every SUNDAY.

On November 30, 2017, one winner will receive SAMSUNG SMART PHONE (Samsung A5).

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- Chicken Leg Quarter 33lbs. — $19.99
- Chicken Leg Quarter 22lbs. — $14.99
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- Hotdog — $1.19 /LB.
- Bacon — $3.99 /LB.
- Winglets — $13.99 BAG
- Chicken Nuggets — $13.99 BAG
- Tilapia — $1.19 /LB.
- Milkfish (Bangus) — $1.49 /LB.

GROCERIES • GROCERIES • GROCERIES • GROCERIES • GROCERIES

- Diamond G Rice 50lbs. — $23.99 OZ.
- Diamond G Rice 25lbs. — $12.99
- Lotus 50lbs. $21.99 — $21.99
- Lotus 10lbs. — $6.99
- Kikkoman Soy Sauce — $4.29 EA.
- Folgers — $10.99 33 OZ.
- Coffee Mate — $8.99 500Z.
- Soy Bean Oil 5 Gallon — $23.99
- AVO Canola Oil — $10.99 1GAL.
- AVO Vinegar — $3.99 1GAL.
- Ichiban Soba — $11.99 /CASE
- Korean Soba — $7.99 /CASE
- Korean Flour — $3.89 EA..
- Gold Medal Flour — $3.99 EA..
- GB Mayo — $10.99 EA..
- Spam Lite LIMIT 6PCS. — $2.49 EA..
- Black Label — $1.89 EA..
- ACE Tuna — $1.49 EA..
- Carnation Evap (US) — $1.29 EA..
- Carnation Evap (Philippines) — 99¢ EA..
- Selecta Ice Cream — $6.99 EA.
- Foremost Milk 1L/1case — $19.99
- Anchor Milk 1L/1case — $19.99
- Pepsi Fridge Pack — $8.99
- Coke Fridge Pack — $8.99

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- Cantaloupe — $1.19 LB.
- Orange — $1.29 EA.
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- Apple — $1.49 LB.
- Green Cabbage — 99¢ LB..
- Potato — 79¢ LB.
- Romaine Heart — $3.99 BAG
- Onion — 59¢ LB.
- Egg XL White — $1.99 DOZ.
- Egg M Loose — $3.99 2.5 DOZ.

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- Luvs Assorted Size — $17.99 BOX
- Bounty 15 Roll — $19.99
- Head and Shoulders — $5.99 EA.
- Joy 90oz — $5.99
- Gain 50oz. — $4.99
- Gain 100oz. — $8.99
- Charmin Double Roll 1x16 — $10.99
- Suave Shampoo & Conditioner — 2 for $3.00
- Clorox Bleach 121oz. — $5.99
- Foam Plates 150ct. — $7.99
- Foam Plates 40ct. — $1.79
- Twin Flame Butane — $22.99 /CASE
- Gold Flame Butane — $23.99 /CASE

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Pacific women conference in Suva

The 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of the Pacific Ministers for Women will be held from Oct. 2 to 6 at the Novotel Lami Bay in Suva, Fiji.

The conference will bring together senior government officials and civil society representatives from across 22 Pacific Island countries and territories to discuss progress made on commitments to increasing gender equality, identify measures to accelerate progress and implementation efforts in the region.

Successive triennial conferences have provided an important space for the participation of civil society organizations. This year's conference will see greater engagement by civil society, particularly young women and women with disability.

The conference will also encourage greater partnership between governments and development partners to support the participation of civil society representatives on official delegations, so that there is a stronger, more amplified Pacific voice at global discussions on gender.

The overarching theme of this year's Triennial and Conference is "Pacific Women's economic empowerment." Republic of the Marshall Islands President Dr. Hilda Heine, the first woman head of state of an independent Pacific Island nation, will deliver the keynote address.

The 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and the 6th Meeting of Ministers for Women is primarily coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, in collaboration with the multi-partner steering committee, and principally supported by the Australian government. ***(PR)***

CNMI PUBLIC POWER WEEK BEA CABRERA

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed a proclamation Tuesday designating the week of Oct. 1-7, 2017, as CNMI Public Power Week to honor the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. In this photo, CUC executive director Gary Camacho, Torres, and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog are surrounded by lawmakers and CUC personnel during the proclamation signing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Camacho said: "This is something I think that is important to do. We haven't done this since 2005. We have to recognize the contributions of the CUC men and women. All the hardworking linemen, the power generation staff on Saipan, Rota and Tinian…there is just a wide range of people involved behind the scenes that allow power to be provided effectively and reliably. The hard work and what they do on a day-to-day basis out in the field, in all sorts of conditions. If there is a power outage, believe me, people are out there. Whatever the weather conditions are, they are out there."

TakeCare reconciles 5 years of CHC claims

TAMUNING, Guam— TakeCare would like to announce the completion of reconciliation of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s claims from 2012 to June 30, 2017, that were submitted in June 2017.

As reported in the media, CHCC has historically failed to bill either TakeCare or its members for services in a timely fashion, which has led to the recent issues and dispute between TakeCare and CHCC.

In August, TakeCare made a good-faith advance payment of $1 million to CHCC to assist CHCC operationally as well as allow both parties more time to reconcile five years' worth of claims from CHCC.

As of today, TakeCare has found that there is still an unapplied balance of $226, 653.50 from the original advance of $1 million made to CHCC. As this balance is considered an excess payment to CHCC, TakeCare does not owe any further payments for historical claims.

TakeCare has received notification that the Commonwealth Health Center "will no longer serve as a network provider to patients with TakeCare Insurance." TakeCare would like to make clear, despite CHC sending bills for services rendered directly to TakeCare, TakeCare members have always been self-pay patients at CHC as both parties have not entered into a provider service agreement.

However, as a professional courtesy and as a matter of convenience for CHC, TakeCare has customarily accepted billings from CHC for covered services rendered to its members, and made payment to CHC subject to policy limitations and the benefit terms of its policies.

It is our sincere hope that CHC will continue to work with TakeCare to address the claims process, including working on terms of a direct payer agreement.

About TakeCare

TakeCare's health plans effectively cover its 30,000-plus members' needs with exceptional, member-patient focused services. With over 40 years in the industry, TakeCare continues to uphold the highest standards of excellence for accredited provider networks, patient management expertise, and end-to-end quality control processes. ***(PR)***

GOOD TASTE CONTEST BEA CABRERA

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo, left, and chef de partie Reiji Yoshizawa are working hand in hand in preparation for Yoshizawa's participation in a Good Taste Series 2017 competition that will be held in Tokyo next month. The annual competition rewards the best of the best among Hyatt kitchens. Yoshizawa will be the first chef to represent the Micronesia region at the contest.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DPL closed tomorrow

The Department of Public Lands will be closed tomorrow, Sept. 29, 2017, for an all-day professional development workshop. The DPL office on Tinian will be closed but the office on Rota will remain open. DPL will resume operation on Monday, Oct. 2, 2017. Contact DPL at (670) 234-3751 with any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Tinian mayor to request for military assistance

The Office of the Tinian Mayor intends to solicit assistance from the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program. The assistance will include no-cost dental care and related services. The proposed assistance will take place at Tinian Health Center during the month of September 2018.

Dental providers or private citizens who have questions or who wish to voice opposition to military assistance for the project may contact Ignacio P. Kiyoshi Jr. at the Office of the Mayor at 433-1800/3222 no later than seven days after publication of this notice.

Persons not filing comments within the time frame noted will be considered to have waived their objections to military assistance for the project. Info can be found at http://irt.defense.gov/. ***(PR)***

Lions Club to celebrate 25th anniversary

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club will be a host a fundraiser called "The Ultimate Drag Queen 2017" on Nov. 4 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort, with VIP tickets priced at $25 and general admission at $10. Proceeds will be used for the club's community projects. Fourteen candidates will be competing. The show will be choreographed and directed by Ernie Molina. For more details and sponsorships, call SFALC president Annamae Adaza at 483-5237, vice president Lourdes Ortiz at 785-2306, VP Leony Mendoza at 287-7563, secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Molina at 789-8212. ***(PR)***

4-day Pacific Judicial Council kicks off

» 130 judges, justices, lawyers, guests gather for biennial conference

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for Guam Chief Judge and Pacific Judicial Conference president Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, both seated center in the first row, pose for a photo with judges, justices, and lawyers from the U.S. district courts and judiciaries from the CNMI, Guam, Palau, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap, American Samoa, Philippines, and from schools of law in the U.S. mainland, at yesterday's kickoff of the four-day PJC's biennial conference at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

The four-day Pacific Judicial Council biennial conference kicked off Tuesday with 130 judges, justices, lawyers, law clerks, and other guests at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

Participants come from PJC member judiciaries—the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Palau, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap. Fifteen judges from the Philippines also joined the conference.

Guam Supreme Court Associate Justice F. Philip Carbullido, who is chairman of the PJC education committee, served as the master of ceremony.

Over 30 judges and justices as well as members of the CNMI Bar Association joined the conference.

U.S. District Court for Guam chief judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, who is PJC president, welcomed the delegates.

Member jurisdictions rotate hosting the biennial conference. The CNMI Judiciary hosted the conference in 2009. PJC was created in 1991.

Presentations for the next few days will provide a comprehensive range of issues from immigration control, military buildup, ethics and social media, to evidence and judicial writing.

Tuesay's speakers were University of California Davis School of Law professor Carlton F. W. Larson, Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, and U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington Senior U.S. district judge John C. Coughenour.

The conference will end on Friday.

Funding for the conference comes from the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Matarweh obtains her MBA

Dana Nabil Matarweh of Amman, Jordan, who resides in Kuwait and is married to Raymond Anthony Cabrera Camacho of Saipan, recently graduated from the Maastricht School of Management in the city of Maastricht, The Netherlands.

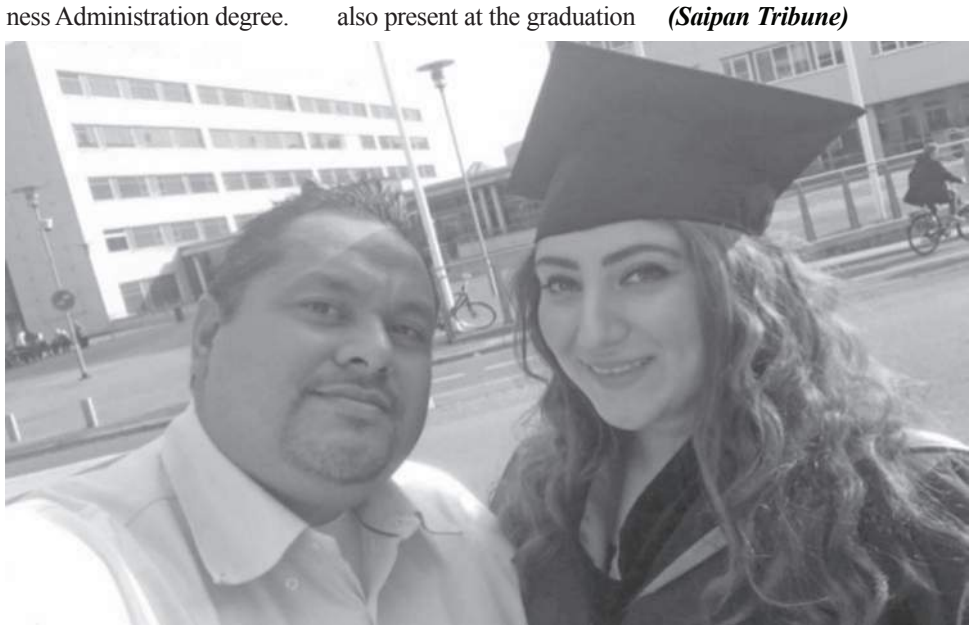
Matarweh, who is the daughter of Nabil Hanna Matarweh and Maha Nicola Mousa, graduated from MSM with a Master in Business Administration degree.

The graduation ceremony took place on Sept. 21, 2017, during which students received their Master of Business Administration, Master in Management, and doctoral degrees. The ceremony was officiated by MSM dean Wim Naude.

More than a hundred students from all over the world were part of the graduating class. The ambassadors of the students' countries were also present at the graduation ceremony to congratulate their students.

Camacho and Matarweh had just celebrated their first wedding anniversary on Saipan. The two were married in Jordan on July 22, 2016.

In a message to Matarweh from her in-laws on Saipan, they said: "Congratulations Dana from your family and friends in Kuwait, Jordan and Saipan. Job well done! We are very proud of you." ***(Saipan Tribune)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dana Nabil Matarweh of Amman, Jordan, poses with her husband, Raymond Anthony Cabrera Camacho of Saipan, during the graduation ceremony at the Maastricht School of Management in the city of Maastricht, The Netherlands, last Sept. 21, 2017.

First 52 refugees to resettle in US leave Pacific camps

By ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The first 52 refugees to be accepted for resettlement in the United States under a contentious agreement with Australia have left Pacific island camps where they have languished for years, a refugee advocate said Wednesday.

The first 25 refugees from a male-only camp on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island had flown out of the national capital Port Moresby on Tuesday for the United States via the Philippines and Qatar, Refugee Action Coalition spokesman Ian Rintoul said.

Another 27 refugees flew to Port Moresby on Wednesday from a camp in Nauru, he said.

Their journey would end in Los Angeles via the Philippines, Qatar and Chicago, Rintoul said.

U.S. government officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday and Australian officials declined to comment.

The first 25 who left Port Moresby on Tuesday would settle in U.S. population centers including Atlanta, Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper reported. Rintoul said he did not know the specific locations where they were headed.

Former President Barack Obama's administration agreed to accept up to 1,250 of Australia's refugees—mostly from Iran, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka—in a deal some saw as repayment for Australia agreeing to accept Honduran and Salvadoran refugees under a U.S.-led resettlement program from a camp in Costa Rica.

President Donald Trump described the deal as "dumb" but has agreed to honor it subject to "extreme vetting" of refugees.

Rintoul said there was no indication how many of the more than 2,000 asylum seekers on Papua New Guinea and Nauru would be left behind.

"People (in the camps) are happy that these people have gone, but the big question is what happens to the rest," Rintoul said.

"It raises the level of anxiety and uncertainty and that's been magnified by the fact that U.S. officials have indicated that while they expect that there will be other groups being processed, it could take as long to process the next group of people as it has to process this one which is several months," he said.

"There is no transparency, no time lines, no numbers, no certainty except the fact that there will be hundreds left behind," he added.

Officials say U.S. security is paramount. All refugees approved for travel to the United States from Nauru and Papua New Guinea have passed the same stringent vetting processes that apply to all refugees considered for admission to the United States, and any individual not deemed to have met U.S. vetting requirements would not be admitted.

Australia will not settle any refugees who try to arrive by boat—a policy that the government says dissuades asylum seekers from attempting the dangerous and occasionally deadly ocean crossing from Indonesia.

Australia instead pays Papua New Guinea and Nauru to house asylum seekers in camps that have been plagued by reports of abuse and draconian conditions. Some of more than 2,000 asylum seekers have been in the island camps for more than four years.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hurricane-ravaged territories require urgent help

Washington's quick response to the destruction suffered by Hurricane Harvey victims in Texas and Hurricane Irma victims in Florida might have lulled the administration into a false sense of job-well-done achievement. The test isn't whether the task can be completed once; it's whether the administration and Congress can rise to the challenge every time.

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are suffering from apocalyptic devastation of a magnitude never seen on the U.S. mainland. If Puerto Rico were a state instead of a U.S. territory, it would rank just below Oklahoma and Connecticut in population. Imagine a disaster that didn't just wipe out, say, Tulsa or Hartford but the entire state.

An estimated 100 percent of Puerto Rico's territory lost electric power when Hurricane Maria raked across the territory last Wednesday. The U.S. Virgin Islands, which had already suffered catastrophic damage from Hurricane Irma only the week before, was so badly pummeled by Maria that crisis conditions look more like Sudan or war-ravaged Afghanistan than a U.S. territory.

Imagine the damage inflicted on Joplin, Mo., by the 2011 tornado. That tornado, the costliest in U.S. history, churned across roughly a 22-square-mile stretch of southwestern Missouri. Winds were clocked at about 200 mph. Maria's Category 5, 160-mph winds passed directly over Puerto Rico, denuding the entire 3,200-square-mile island of vegetation and wiping out farmland, infrastructure and housing. What wasn't wrecked by wind was flooded.

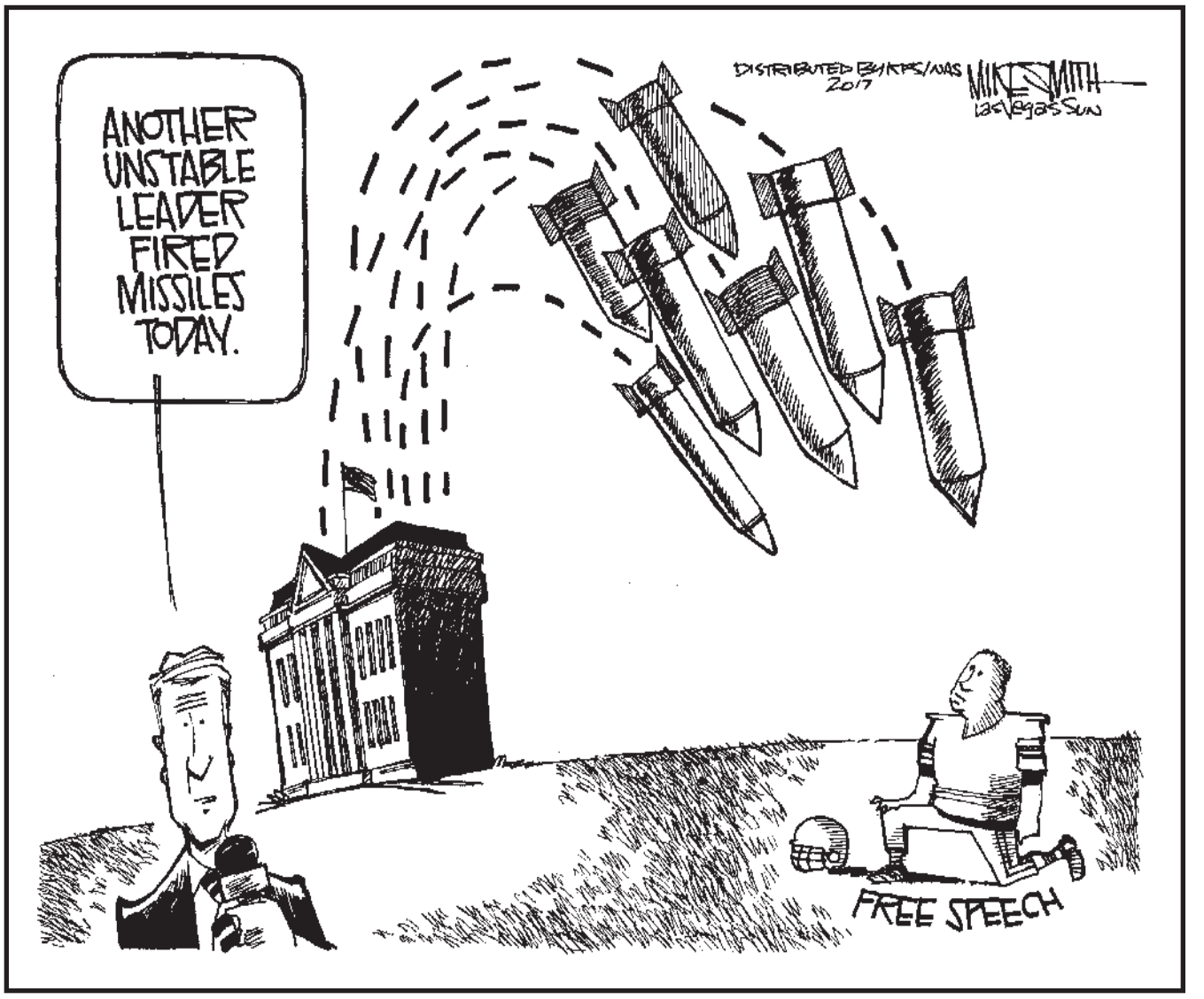
Nearly all phone communication was wiped out, delaying survivors from telling the world about the scale of the humanitarian disaster. Without power, there are no pumps to provide running water. Sewage treatment plants are down. Hospitals are struggling to cope. Food is running dangerously low. There is nowhere near enough emergency shelter space to accommodate all who are left homeless. A major dam on the island's northwestern corner was so close to collapsing over the weekend that the governor ordered 70,000 residents to evacuate.

Top officials say St. Thomas, the most populous of the U.S. Virgin Islands chain with an estimated 52,000 residents, was 80 percent destroyed with 40,000 rendered homeless by Irma. It's still too early to know how much more was destroyed by Maria.

The inhabitants of both Caribbean territories are fully fledged U.S. citizens. They deserve the same attention, and money, in times of disaster as do Houston, Miami or any other U.S. population center. President Donald Trump announced that he'll visit Puerto Rico on Tuesday—"the earliest I can go" without disrupting relief efforts. That will be 13 days after the storm. It's as if these are second-class citizens who don't quite merit urgency.

Before Maria, Puerto Rico was grappling with an unprecedented financial crisis. Now a full-blown humanitarian crisis is staring official Washington in the face. A tepid response is not an option.

(c)2017 St. Louis Post-Dispatch



Becoming an American citizen in the age of Trump

By NAMWALI SERPELL
Los Angeles Times

Namwali Serpell is a fiction writer and professor of English at the University of California at Berkeley. Her short story The Sack *won the 2015 Caine Prize for African Writing. Her first novel,* The Old Drift, *is forthcoming. She wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

I felt my first real twinge of regret about not being a U.S. citizen in 2008, when Barack Obama was elected president.

An American university where my father once worked as a professor had helped secure green cards for my whole family, in 1992. (I was 11 at the time.) I had renewed my green card twice since then. People often asked why I hadn't applied for citizenship. This is the life I'm used to, I'd say: smugly returning jury notices, watching elections from a safe distance, standing in endless queues for travel visas, enduring taxation without representation.

The truth is I felt torn about swearing allegiance to a nation with such a horrific past—slavery, lynching, internment, Hiroshima, deportation, police brutality. But Obama seemed to transcend that history, to synthesize and neutralize it in his very body. He was born here, but, like me, he is mixed-race, black, Halfrican. I regretted not being able to vote for America's first black president.

Then Donald Trump was elected president. For the first time in my life, I wanted to join a political protest, without fear of arrest and deportation. A week after he won the election, I put in my application for naturalization. A week after his inauguration, I had my biometric screening. A month after his second Muslim travel ban went into effect, I had my naturalization interview.

Over the last nine months, because of Trump's presidency, I have learned more about American politics and history than I ever learned in high school, far more than I needed to know for my 10-question citizenship exam. I know all about filibustering and gerrymandering. I know what budget reconciliation is. I know when those Confederate monuments were built and why. I know that everyone in the U.S., regardless of immigration status, has the right to free speech—including the right to burn the American flag—and the right to bear arms. I know there is no official language of the U.S. I know what the 25th Amendment is.

My citizenship ceremony took place in Oakland, Calif., in mid-August, mere days after the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va. It was held in the historic Paramount Theater, which was big enough to hold more than 1,000 newly minted citizens from more than 90 different countries, plus their cheering friends and families. The neo-Nazis in Charlottesville had hollered, "You will not replace us!" Some of them had even subbed in "Jews" for "you." As I looked around the packed theater, I thought, "Well, actually ... "

We, the new people of the United States of America, gave oaths in unison and sang *The Star-Spangled Banner*. We stood up to represent our old countries as their names were read aloud. (Zambia was last on the list; I was the only Zambian.) We clapped and waved little flags and laughed uproariously when a speaker joked that we would never again have to wait in an immigration line.

The line to submit our passport applications stretched out of the theater and into the street. As it inched along, I registered to vote and spent the rest of the hour chatting with a lovely Nigerian woman about the traumas of the past months, about our lives in America, about the citizenship application process. We each took pictures with a cardboard cutout of Obama dressed as a superhero. (Bless you, Oakland.)

I was hoping to receive an accidental letter of welcome from him rather than Trump, as hundreds of other newly naturalized citizens had. But when we received our precious envelopes in Oakland that day, there was no letter of welcome at all. Trump apparently hadn't gotten around to writing and signing one. This feels especially fitting now that Trump has announced his intention to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA. He has left the so-called Dreamers—children of immigrants, just like me—in torturous suspense.

California Supreme Court Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuellar, also a naturalized citizen, gave the final speech at my naturalization ceremony. He exhorted us to believe that we belong here, that we are welcome. He told us that no one can tell us otherwise, "no matter how rich or poor they are, no matter which house they live in." Then he paused. In that pause, the word "house" seemed to grow a capital letter and acquire the word "White" before it.

Still, I have chosen to become a U.S. citizen. I feel proud to be a U.S. citizen at a time like this. And I feel ashamed to be a U.S. citizen at a time like this. This ambivalence, I have come to realize, is the most American thing about me.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We're hard wired for empathy—and savage indifference

By ROBERT M. SAPOLSKY
Los Angeles Times

Stanford University neuroscientist Robert M. Sapolsky is the author, most recently, of Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Sometimes, even the most inspirational among us share some disheartening traits with other animals.

Humans have a remarkable capacity for empathy and compassion. We help strangers a continent away, donate anonymously, bequeath money to help people who will be born after our deaths. We can even choose to make the ultimate sacrifice in helping others—just think of the West African nurses who died fighting Ebola. These admirable traits owe little to Sunday morning sermons, the rule of law or pillows embroidered with the Golden Rule. Instead, they're how we're wired; we see the rudiments in other species. Such behaviors are rooted in our common ancestry.

Among chimps, for example, suppose some low-ranking member of a troop is mauled by an alpha-male. Afterward, the innocent bystander is more likely than usual to be groomed by other group members. But such "consolation" behavior isn't generic—if the pummeled loser wasn't a hapless victim, and instead was the fool who started the fight, no extra grooming for him.

Even rodents exhibit the building blocks of empathy. If a mouse observes another mouse in pain, its own pain threshold lowers. If a prairie vole has been stressed, it is more likely to be groomed. Rats will "work" (that is, repeatedly press a lever) to release another rat from a tightly enclosed space, and will even forgo a reward (chocolate!) in the process.

Wow, a lot like humans. And just as in humans, empathy tends to come with a catch.

Chimps console innocent victims only in their own group. A vole grooms a distressed individual only if it is his or her mate; a stressed stranger is out of luck. Pain thresholds lower in mice only if the mouse in pain is a mouse they know. Rats work to free another rat only if the latter is a cage mate or a rat of their genetic strain (roughly equivalent to breed in dogs). In other words, these species divide the world into Us and Them, and care much more about the former than the latter.

So do we. When people watch a video of a hand being poked with a sharp needle, they have an "isomorphic sensorimotor" response, unconsciously clenching their own hands, with sensory neurons activating as if they were experiencing the poke. But this doesn't happen as much if the hand being poked is of another skin color.

In another study, researchers feigned an injury at a soccer stadium during a game—they were more likely to be helped if wearing home team regalia. Subjects considering the plight of an AIDS patient activate the anterior cingulate, a brain region implicated in feeling empathy—but only if the patient was infected with HIV from a blood transfusion, rather than from drug use. We come with implicit categories influencing whose plight moves us.

What's demoralizing is when we see this play out in the behavior of moral giants.

Consider John Newton, a theologian who late in life became central to the banning of slavery in the British Empire. Remarkably, as a young man, Newton was the captain of a slave ship. When he had a religious epiphany (something he celebrated in the hymn he penned, "Amazing Grace"), he traded his captain's role for the ministry. But there's an inconvenient pause in Newton's journey from slaver to abolitionist. As a newly minted preacher caring for the poor of London, he invested in and profited from the slave trade. Apparently, it wasn't immediately obvious that everyone deserved God's grace equally.

Then there's Zenji Abe, who lead a squadron of Japanese planes that attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941. Years later, as an old man, Abe came to a memorial service in Hawaii, to apologize to elderly American survivors. Yet Abe had also participated in the Japanese invasion of China and the Rape of Nanking; there is no evidence that he ever apologized for that. Apparently, some types of ex-enemies count more than others.

And there's Woodrow Wilson who, after the end of World War I, championed self-determination and human rights for subjugated European minorities. Yet Wilson's legacy is tainted with racism. As president of Princeton University, he labored to reduce the number of African-Americans admitted; as president of the United States, he instituted or reinforced segregationist laws. Moreover, he repeatedly invaded Latin American countries, overthrowing popularly supported governments to install puppets. Apparently, self-determination and civil rights applied only to people of some skin colors.

Which brings us to a current example. Consider Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who spent 15 years under house arrest in Myanmar for nonviolently opposing its military dictatorship. Now, "Mother Suu" is the de facto leader of Myanmar. The news has been filled with reports of the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya, the Muslim minority in Myanmar, following attacks by Rohingyan insurgents on government border posts. There has been a bloodbath of killings and rapes; Rohingya villages have been burned to the ground by the military and Buddhist mobs. Four hundred thousand Rohingya have fled into Bangladesh under the direst of circumstances.

And the response of Suu Kyi, who is a member of the country's Buddhist aristocracy? At first, a yawning silence. Finally, earlier this month, she addressed the crisis publicly. She praised her marauding military for its supposed restraint in pursing "terrorists," aligning herself with some of the same generals who imprisoned her. She denied the long-standing persecution of the Rohingya and the scorched-earth campaign against them. She called for investigations into "what the real problems are" behind the exodus of the 400,000.

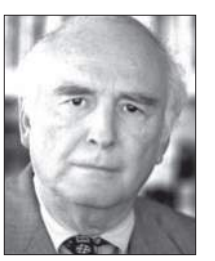
And thus Suu Kyi, a prisoner of conscience who suffered deeply to help free her people, shows that only some citizens of Myanmar count as "her people." Or even as people.

Of course, humans and other animals aren't identical in how they extend empathy to only the right kinds of sufferers. When a rat fails to aid an unfamiliar rat in need, it could offer an easy explanation—"that rat smells weird." But when humans do it, we gussy up savage indifference with rationalization, denial, distortion and lies.

Ah, the progress we've made.

Trump must avoid Carter's mistakes

By DAN K. THOMASSON
Tribune News Service



Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at: thomassondan@aol.com .

WASHINGTON—With apologies to Edgar Allen Poe, this is for those of you born after "the valley of the shadow," when vicious hordes attacked the sovereignty of this country by invading the American Embassy in Tehran.

It was a time when a novice like the one now governing in the White House faced a tough decision: whether to speak softly or use a big stick, the preferred American policy.

Unfortunately for Jimmy Carter and this nation, he chose the first option. He did so despite having graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, where he'd helped the chief architect of the nuclear submarine program. After the academy, he was summoned home by his mother to run the family peanut farm, got bored and was elected to one term as the governor of Georgia, enough experience, he thought, to run the country. Wrong.

So, when late in his presidency a mob of Iranian thugs took nearly all the embassy's staff hostage, he tried to jawbone his way out of the massive problem. This went on day after day until he and his military advisers decided to try rescuing the hostages but instead put on a show of ineptness that ended with a helicopter crash in the desert and the whole mission aborted. Our allies shook their heads, the non-aligned were amazed, and our enemies trembled—with laughter—and then made plans to have at us. The big stick had become a tooth pick in front of the world.

Now the current occupant of the Oval Office has a similar but far more serious decision to make. Should he act beyond diplomacy, as he has threatened to do repeatedly, or use what influence he has left by asking for a near worldwide boycott of North Korea, which he did last week?

It has been suggested that Carter should have picked up the phone and informed the Iranian powers that they had committed an act of war—and that unless the embassy was vacated and the American prisoners sent home within 24 hours, their country would cease to exist. Iran was no military match for the U.S., so it's assumed the Persian extremist leaders would have had little option but to comply.

Instead, Carter's timidity was the final blow to his already dwindling re-election hopes. His inability to bring back the hostages severely damaged this country's prestige internationally. And worse, it began decades of destabilization in the Middle East, leading to the morass we now have been bogged down in for more than 10 years. Ultimately, an accord was reached for Iran to halt nuclear development in exchange for lifting sanctions. But the Iranian agreement is being targeted by Donald Trump.

Trump's latest demand to wipe out North Korea if it doesn't stop testing hydrogen bombs and shooting off missiles came before the United Nations and shocked everyone in its forcefulness. The next day, however, the novice seemed to have backed off his bellicosity by proposing the strongest kind of sanctions.

Confusing? You bet it is, and it was apparent that somehow cooler heads were influencing Trump. It is equally apparent Kim Jong Un, the crazed pig who runs North Korea and sees himself as a deity, hasn't been intimidated by Trump's threats. He obviously doesn't believe them or is so mad he doesn't care. Don't forget that he has starved his citizens to pay for his nuclear obsession.

Back when Carter could have saved us from enormous grief with stern talk, this country had a huge advantage over its opponent. Today, the North's arsenal reportedly already includes nuclear weapons capable of reaching this country and that threat to our democracy probably will steadily increase as the North adds more to back its huge army. Neighbors like South Korea and Japan, who are our allies, are more than a little concerned—and should be.

No one wants what may be necessary. But eliminating this menace might be the only way out of the "valley of the shadow."

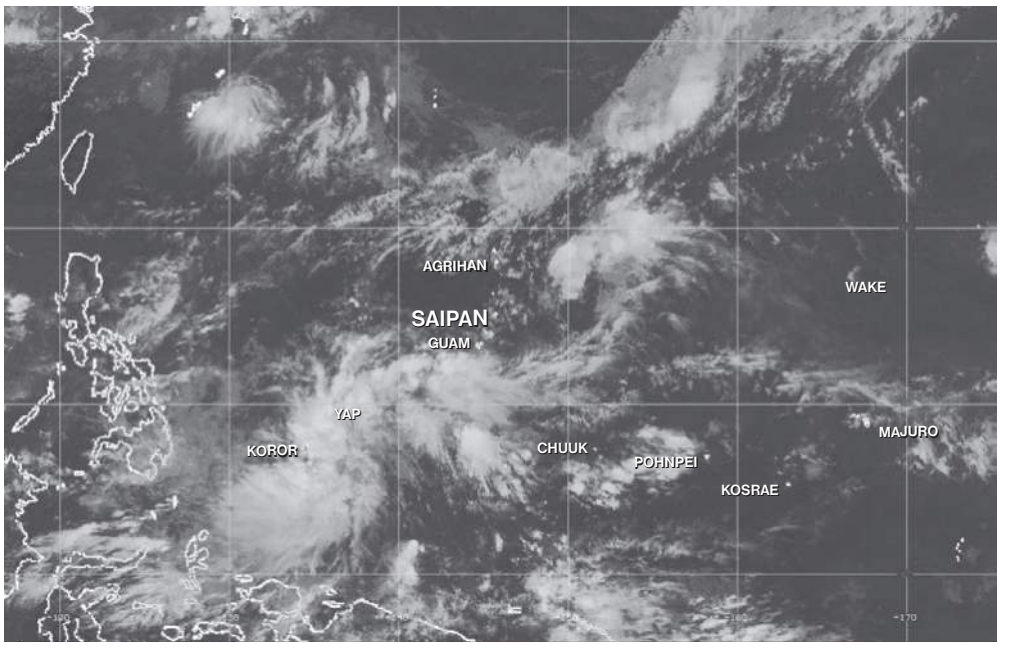
Speak softly for a while, Mr. Trump, but perhaps not too long.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:13 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade winds will dominate Marianas weather the next few days as the upper-level trough has shifted southward. As the trade winds gradually diminish, so will the combined seas. They should reach 2 to 4 feet this afternoon, then remain rather steady. Looks like benign marine conditions for the rest of this week and into next. The one possible fly in the ointment is if winds and clouds are both lower than expected we could get a bit of island convection near Guam.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	61° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	73° / 48°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	88° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	64° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	75° / 61°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 69°
Osaka	Rain	75° / 64°
Paris	Cloudy	70° / 52°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	73° / 57°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	79° / 55°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	92° / 67°
San Francisco	Sunny	76° / 55°
Seoul	Sunny	70° / 55°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Washington, DC	Sunny	78° / 56°

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:19 AM	LOW TIDE	0.26
2:40 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.55
8:10 PM	LOW TIDE	1.16
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:32 pm	-	-
Friday	-	12:09 am	1:20 pm
Saturday	-	12:58 am	2:07 pm
Sunday	-	1:49 am	2:53 pm
Monday	-	2:40 am	3:38 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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‘Obamacare’ survives; GOP concedes on last-gasp repeal try

AP
Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, is questioned by reporters as she arrives at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017.

WASHINGTON (AP)—”Obamacare” lives on.

Senate Republicans, short of votes, abandoned their latest and possibly final attempt to kill the health care law Tuesday, just ahead of a critical end-of-the-week deadline.

The repeal-and-replace bill’s authors promised to try again at a later date, while President Donald Trump railed against “certain so-called Republicans” who opposed the GOP effort. But for now, Trump and fellow Republicans who vowed for seven years to abolish President Barack Obama’s law will leave it standing and turn their attention to overhauling the nation’s tax code instead.

The GOP’s predicament was summed up bluntly by Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, a lead author of the legislation: “Through events that are under our control and not under our control, we don’t have the votes.”

“Am I disappointed? Absolutely,” he said after a GOP lunch attended by Vice President Mike Pence.

Standing alongside Cassidy, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said: “We haven’t given up on changing the American health care system. We are not going to be able to do that this week, but it still lies ahead of us.”

“We do think it’s time to turn to our twin priority, reforming the tax code,” McConnell said.

There was much talk of returning to the repeal effort later, but not all Republican senators were putting on that brave face.

Sen John Kennedy of Louisiana described the bill as “dead as a doornail.”

The bill Cassidy co-authored with Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina would have unraveled the central elements of Obama’s law, including the requirement for Americans to carry health insurance or pay fines, and offered block grants to states to design their own systems with less federal control.

Republicans are also strongly in agreement on a need for action on overhauling the loophole-ridden U.S. tax code, and hope that if they also succeed in getting Americans a tax cut, their failure on health care will be forgiven.

Yet they began the health care effort with unanimity, too, up until the devilish details began to emerge and divide them as they pursued a partisan effort against united Democratic opposition.

Much the same could happen on taxes, where Republicans are at the beginning of the process, with plans to unveil a blueprint on Wednesday.

On health care, the urgency confronting the GOP this week lay in special budget rules that protected the legislation from a Democratic filibuster, allowing the Republicans to pass it with just 50 votes, plus a tie-breaker from Pence, instead of the 60 often required. Those special rules expire Sept. 30.

Even with that advantage McConnell had little room for error given his slim 52-48 vote majority in the 100-member Senate. And as in July, when Arizona Sen. John McCain cast a dramatic late-night thumbs down to kill the previous repeal bill, McConnell was unable to corral the 50 “Ayes.”

In addition to McCain, moderate GOP Sen. Susan Collins of Maine announced her opposition, as did conservative Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky. Several other senators were skeptical or undeclared, among them Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who waited until McConnell had conceded defeat Tuesday to issue a statement criticizing “a lousy process” on the legislation.

Trump, GOP weigh surtax on wealthy, doubled deduction

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans are considering an income tax surcharge on the wealthy and doubling the standard deduction given to most Americans, with the GOP under pressure to overhaul the tax code after the collapse of the health care repeal.

On the eve of the grand rollout of the plan, details emerged on Capitol Hill on Tuesday while Trump personally appealed to House Republicans and Democrats at the White House to get behind his proposal.

“We will cut taxes tremendously for the middle class. Not just a little bit but tremendously,” Trump said as he met with members of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee. He predicted jobs “will be coming back in because we have a non-competitive tax structure right now and we’re going to go super competitive.”

Among the details: repeal of the tax on multimillion-dollar estates, a reduction in the corporate rate from 35 percent to 20 percent and potentially four tax brackets, down from the current seven. The current top rate for individuals, those earning more than $418,000 a year, is 39.6 percent.

The goal is a more simple tax code that would spur economic growth and make U.S. companies more competitive. Delivering on the top legislative goal will be crucial for Republicans intent on holding onto their majorities in next year’s midterm elections.

The tax overhaul plan assembled by the White House and GOP leaders, which would slash the rate for corporations, aims at the first major revamp of the tax system in three decades. It would deliver a major Trump campaign pledge.

The outlines of the plan were described by GOP officials who demanded anonymity to disclose private deliberations.

The plan would likely cut the tax rate for the wealthiest Americans from 39.6 percent to 35 percent. A new surcharge on wealthy taxpayers might soften the appearance of the wealthiest Americans and big corporations benefiting from generous tax cuts.

Republicans already were picking at the framework, pointing up how divisions within GOP ranks can complicate efforts to overhaul taxes as has happened with the series of moves to repeal the Obama health care law.

Details of the proposal crafted behind closed doors over months by top White House economic officials, GOP congressional leaders and the Republican heads of tax-writing panels in the House and Senate were set to be released Wednesday. Trump and the Republicans were putting the final touches on the plan when the Democrats were brought in. A senior Democrat saw it as the opening of negotiations.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Anti-govt pastor in Zimbabwe arrested for video of shortages

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Police in Zimbabwe have arrested an anti-government pastor after he circulated videos highlighting the country’s worsening economic problems. Defense lawyer Harrison Nkomo says pastor Evan Mawarire, who last year organized the county’s biggest protests in a decade, has been charged with subversion. Mawarire is to appear in court on Monday due to separate subversion charges linked to earlier anti-government campaigns. The latest charges came after Mawarire posted videos that include images of long lines of people waiting for fuel. In the videos, Mawarire accuses the government of 93-year-old President Robert Mugabe of being insensitive to the problems affecting the once-prosperous southern African country. Mawarire fled to the United States last year after his involvement in protests. He returned in February and was charged with subversion.

London mayor: Uber to blame for loss of license in city

LONDON (AP)—London’s mayor said Saturday that people angry about the decision by transit authorities to strip Uber of its license to operate in the city should blame the ride-hailing company itself. “I have every sympathy with Uber drivers and customers affected by this decision, but their anger really should be directed at Uber,” Mayor Sadiq Khan said. The city’s transportation agency, Transport for London, said Friday that it would not renew Uber’s license when it expires Sept. 30, citing a lack of corporate responsibility. The agency said the factors it considered included Uber’s “approach to reporting serious criminal offenses” and its use of software designed to evade the authorities. Khan said in a statement that it would be wrong “to license Uber if there was any way this could pose a threat to Londoners’ safety or security.”

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
22,284.32	2,496.84	6,380.16
-11.77	+0.18	+9.57
-0.05%	+0.01%	+0.15%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.27	Hong Kong Dollar	7.81	Russian Ruble	57.86
British Pound	0.7449	Indian Rupee	65.56	Singapore Dollar	1.36
Canadian Dollar	1.24	Japanese Yen	112.39	South Korean Won	1,139.37
Chinese Yuan	6.63	Malaysian Ringgit	4.22	Swiss Franc	0.971
Euro	0.8489	New Zealand Dollar	1.39	Taiwan Dollar	30.31
		Philippine Peso	49.92	Thailand Baht	33.28

Nation

Trump suddenly focuses on Puerto Rico, promises visit, aid

WASHINGTON (AP)—Suddenly, just about all President Donald Trump can talk about is Puerto Rico.

After not mentioning the hurricane-devastated island for days, Trump on Tuesday pushed back aggressively and repeatedly against criticism that he had failed to quickly grasp the magnitude of Maria's destruction or give the U.S. commonwealth the top-priority treatment he had bestowed on Texas, Louisiana and Florida after previous storms.

Trump announced that he would visit Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands next week. He tweeted about Puerto Rico's needs. He talked about Puerto Rico during a meeting on tax cuts. He raised the subject at a Rose Garden news conference with the prime minister of Spain.

And he attended a hurricane briefing. He called a meeting of agency heads tasked with helping Puerto Rico recover, and sent top officials out to the White House driveway to talk to reporters. FEMA Administrator Brock Long delivered specifics: 16 Navy and Coast Guard ships in the waters around Puerto Rico and 10 more on the way.

Throughout, Trump stressed that Puerto Rico's governor had praised the federal response, characterizing Ricardo Rossello as "so thankful of the job we're doing."

AP

Nelida Trinidad talks about the destruction of her home in Montebello, Puerto Rico, in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017.

Six days after Maria struck the island, conditions in Puerto Rico remain dire, with 3.4 million people virtually without electrical power and short of food and water. Flights off the island are infrequent, communications are spotty and roads are clogged with debris. Officials said electrical power may not be fully restored for more than a month.

Trump, who had proposed visiting Puerto Rico earlier this month, said that next Tuesday was the earliest he could get there without disrupting recovery efforts.

His public focus in recent days on other matters, particularly his extended commentary on NFL players who kneel during the National Anthem, generated criticism that he was giving Puerto Rico short shrift after devoting considerable public attention to storm damage in Texas and Florida.

Rep. Nydia Velazquez, D-N.Y., said she had been concerned that Trump's continued tweets about NFL players showed he didn't grasp the severity of the crisis. She warned that if he didn't start taking it seriously, "this is going to be your Katrina," referring to criticism of President George W. Bush following the slow federal response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

And it wasn't just Democrats.

"The crisis for these Americans needs more attention—and more urgency from the executive branch," tweeted Republican Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska, a frequent Trump critic. Florida GOP Sen. Marco Rubio concurred, tweeting about San Juan, "MUST get power crews in ASAP."

"We have a fundamental obligation to Puerto Rico to respond to a hurricane there the way we would anywhere in the country. #HurricaneMaria," Rubio tweeted Tuesday.

For any president, there's much to be gained politically from ably handling the government's response to natural disasters, and Trump is no exception. His approval ratings in the most recent Gallup tracking poll ticked up, to 39 percent, after his trips to survey damage from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in Texas and Florida.

But Trump's fixation on Puerto Rico on Tuesday stood in sharp contrast to his focus on other matters between Maria's landfall Sept. 20 and Monday, including his fight with the NFL over football players protesting during the National Anthem. The president has tweeted about the NFL more than two dozen times since Friday.

By Monday, Democrats, Republicans and Rossello were emphasizing that Puerto Ricans are Americans, too.

Trump was intent on showing he'd gotten the message - but still wasn't ready to set aside the NFL issue entirely.

Will Trump allow release of secret JFK assassination papers?

BOSTON (AP)—The anticipated release of thousands of never-before-seen government documents related to President John F. Kennedy's assassination has scholars and armchair detectives buzzing. Now, they're waiting to see whether President Donald Trump will block the release of files that could shed light on a tragedy that has stirred conspiracy theories for decades.

The National Archives has until Oct. 26 to disclose the remaining files related to Kennedy's 1963 assassination, unless Trump intervenes. The CIA and FBI, whose records make up the bulk of the batch, won't say whether they've appealed to the Republican president to keep them under wraps.

"The American public deserves to know the facts, or at least they deserve to know what the government has kept hidden from them for all these years," Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics and author of a book about Kennedy, said in an email to The Associated Press. "It's long past the time to be forthcoming with this information," he said.

It's unlikely the documents contain any big revelations about Kennedy's killing, said Judge John Tunheim, who was chairman of the independent agency in the 1990s that made public many assassination records and decided how long others could remain secret.

Sabato and other JFK scholars believe the trove of files may provide insight into assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City weeks before the killing, during which he visited the Soviet and Cuban embassies. Oswald's stated reason for going was to get visas that would allow him to enter Cuba and the Soviet Union, according to the Warren Commission, the investigative body established by President Lyndon B. Johnson, but much about the trip remains unknown.

Among the protected information up for release is details about the arrangements the U.S. entered into with the Mexican government that allowed it to have close surveillance of those and other embassies, said Tunheim, a federal judge in Minnesota.

Kennedy experts also hope to see the full report on Oswald's trip to Mexico City from staffers of the House committee that investigated the assassination, said Rex Bradford, president of the Mary Ferrell Foundation, which publishes assassination records.

The White House didn't immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

The FBI declined to comment on whether it has asked Trump to keep the files hidden. A CIA spokeswoman would say only that it "continues to engage in the process to determine the appropriate next steps with respect to any previously-unreleased CIA information."

Trump aides told not to use personal phones—but some do

WASHINGTON (AP)—White House officials are clearly instructed: Don't use your personal phones for official business. But some aides appear to have done it anyway, and it's getting fresh scrutiny along with questions about the use of personal email accounts.

The inquiries into private communication could prove uncomfortable for President Donald Trump, who relentlessly attacked Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email account and server during her time as secretary of state.

Multiple current and former Trump White House officials have used private email accounts and texts from personal phones for private conversations, sometimes using encrypted messaging apps. That's despite clear directives not to use personal devices for administration business and to save the records if they do.

House lawmakers have requested more information about the use of private email addresses and texting or the use of messaging apps on personal phones. They're also asking about the oversight and record-keeping policies of the Trump White House. They acted after word surfaced that White House adviser Jared Kushner set up a private email account after the election to conduct work-related business.

Further, The New York Times recently reported the names of six close Trump advisers, including Kushner, Steve Bannon and Reince Priebus, who have used private email to discuss White House matters. Bannon and Priebus no longer work at the White House.

The extent of private communications on personal phones—or whether records were retained—is not clear.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the top Democrat on that panel, Rep. Elijah Cummings, sent letters Monday to the White House general counsel and the State Department. They said they want more details on whether staffers are using personal emails, texting or encrypted messaging applications, and if they are preserving the records.

The Presidential Records Act requires senior White House staff members to preserve their professional communications, with the records eventually transferred to the National Archives. Electronic communications outside of official channels, such as private email or text messages on a staffer's personal phone, are supposed to be copied to a government account within 20 days.

White House aides are instructed as part of their training not to use personal devices for official business and are told to save records if they do, said two people with knowledge of administration practices.

A memorandum went out to all White House personnel in February outlining the rules. The memo, provided to The Associated Press, states that records rules apply to "other forms of electronic communication, including text messages."

Asia

Witnesses: Many Rohingya still trying to flee Myanmar

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP)—The massive exodus of Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar to escape brutal persecution appears to have slowed down, but several recent refugees say at least tens of thousands more are huddled near beaches or in forests waiting to escape.

Some Rohingya who have fled over the last week said Myanmar army soldiers were shooting at those trying to flee to Bangladesh. Others said thousands were stuck in Myanmar because most boatmen had made the crossing to safety themselves and soldiers had burned many of the boats that remained.

Over the last month, an estimated 430,000 Rohingya have arrived in Bangladesh as their homes and villages were set on fire by mobs of soldiers and Buddhist monks. They have brought with them accounts of soldiers spraying their villages with gunfire.

In the first three weeks of the latest convulsion of violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state, tens of thousands of Rohingya poured into Bangladesh each day, walking for days through forests or taking rickety wooden boats on the rain-swollen Naf River. Many crossed into the country via the thin sliver of the Bay of Bengal that separates Myanmar from Bangladesh.

But Associated Press journalists have seen only a handful of people enter by land or sea at a few border crossings over the last week. However, there are several crossing points on the border between the two countries where Rohingya have entered over the last month, making it impossible to verify how many people enter Bangladesh each day.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, also noted that the number of incoming Rohingya appeared to have dipped.

One man who fled Myanmar, Syed Noor, said Sunday that tens of thousands of Rohingya were waiting at border points in Myanmar desperately trying to escape. Noor and his family had fled overnight into Bangladesh.

Noor said other people from his village and other villages near the Rakhine town of Buthidaung were hiding in forests near the Naf River.

"They are stuck in one place because the Myanmar army is shooting at us," said Noor, exhausted and groaning in pain. His excruciating journey took nine days and he said there was no food to be had for the last four days.

At first, the Myanmar army was targeting people and shooting at them and asking them to leave their villages, but now that the terrified villagers were hiding in the forests "they are firing in the air to scare us," Noor said.

"The people are scared to move. They are in a jungle near the river," he said.

2 dead, 5 arrested in chase with PH navy

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two Vietnamese fishermen were found dead and five others were taken into custody after they were spotted fishing off the northwestern Philippines, sparking a night chase where a Vietnamese boat hit a Philippine navy ship and prompted its crew to fire shots, officials said Sunday.

Philippine navy information officer Lt. Jose Covvarubias said the five Vietnamese, along with their two dead fellow fishermen, were turned over to Filipino police authorities after the early Saturday incident off Bolinao town in northwestern Pangasinan province.

A Philippine security official told The Associated Press the incident unfolded closer to the Philippine coast and was not related to the main territorial disputes farther out in the South China Sea. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila was the one authorized to speak on the issue.

Covvarubias said details remained sketchy and that an investigation was underway. It was not immediately clear if the two Vietnamese died from gunshot wounds or other causes.

"The information that we got is a Vietnamese fishing boat hit the navy ship," Covvarubias said, adding that "a Vietnamese fishing vessel was being apprehended" when the confrontation happened.

The security official said a Philippine navy patrol ship, PS19, spotted six suspected Vietnamese fishing vessels using powerful lights to attract fish more than 30 nautical miles (55 kilometers) from Bolinao town.

The use of such fishing accessory, known locally as "superlights," is prohibited under Philippine law.

The six fishing vessels fled but one maneuvered and hit the Philippine navy ship, prompting its crew to fire warning shots during the commotion," the official said, adding that two Vietnamese fishermen were later found dead and five others were arrested.

Eruption fears spark exodus of 35K-plus

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—More than 35,000 people have fled a menacing volcano on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali, fearing it will erupt for the first time in more than half a century as increasing tremors rattle the region.

The numbers Sunday from disaster officials are more than double previous estimates and are continuing to rise, they say. It includes people who left voluntarily as well as those told to evacuate from a 9-12 kilometer (6-8 mile) zone around Mount Agung.

Authorities raised the volcano's alert status to the highest level Friday following a "tremendous increase" in seismic activity. Its last eruption in 1963 killed 1,100 people.

Luhut Binsar Panjaitan, a senior Cabinet minister, said Sunday that the districts surrounding the volcano "must be prepared for the worst."

The National Disaster Mitigation Agency has praised the welcoming response of local communities on Bali to the flood of evacuees.

Thousands are living in temporary shelters, sport centers, village halls and with relatives or friends. Some return to the danger zone during the day to tend to livestock.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said 14 tons of aid has been sent, including tents, blankets, mattresses and portable communications equipment.

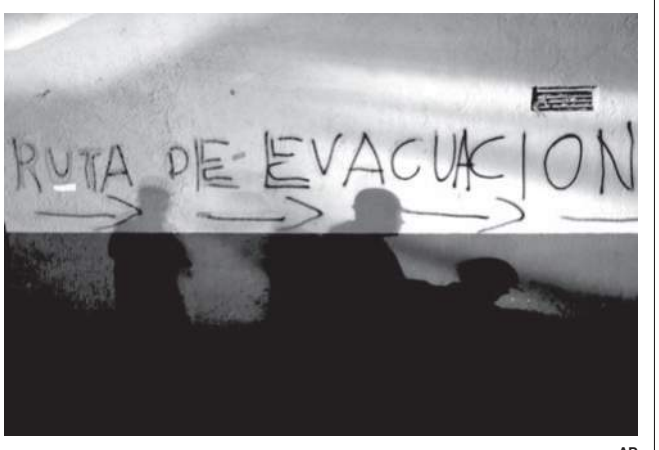
Truck driver Wayan Suparta said he and his family left their village 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the mountain several days ago, bringing just clothes and blankets to a temporary camp in Rendang. The 35-year-old said he sold the family's cow because they don't know when they'll be able to return.

World

MEXICANS DISPLACED BY QUAKE:

'This is like a horror story'

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Inside the Francisco Kino Elementary School a miniature city has emerged at the site of a shelter for people who lost their homes in last week's deadly earthquake.



AP

Shadows of rescue workers and volunteers are cast on the wall of an apartment building covered with the spray painted words in Spanish: "Evacuation route" in the southern neighborhood of Tlalpan in Mexico City, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017.

On the school's open-air courtyard, doctors test blood pressure and glucose levels at a makeshift triage center set up on a plastic table. Nearby, children get haircuts while stressed-out parents receive massages.

But frustration is growing inside the gym, where families camp out on mattresses alongside piles of new, donated belongings. Days without easy access to a shower and the loss of simple liberties like deciding when to turn out a light to go to asleep have become aggravating.

They want to know: How long will they be stuck here?

"This is like a horror story," said Ana Maria Castaneda, 49, who is living at the shelter with five relatives.

More than 12,000 people whose homes were destroyed or damaged by the magnitude 7.1 quake have spent at least one night in a shelter since the quake, the Mexican government says.

Officials pledged Tuesday to give families chased from their homes a monthly payment of 3,000 pesos — the equivalent of about $170 — to find a new place to live for a total of three months. But an average one-bedroom apartment outside Mexico City's center can easily run twice as much.

"We will directly support families with resources and materials to repair damages or build a new home," President Enrique Pena Nieto said in a televised address Tuesday night.

Government employees fanned out Tuesday urging the 25 families living at the Francisco Kino school to visit a nearby park where officials have set up areas for victims to sign up for benefits, but the suggestion was met with skepticism and resistance. If they went to the plaza, some people worried, they might lose their coveted spots at the shelter. Some 500 families were forced from nearby apartment buildings after one collapsed and the school had space only for two dozen.

"Sorry to interrupt you," one elderly woman sitting on a donated mattress said at a meeting with a visiting representative from Mexico City's Women's Institute. "They tell us if we leave here, we'll lose our shelter. But if we don't go there, we might miss out on government benefits."

"After the fright of the quake, why are they scaring us with these threats?" she asked.

The residents were urged to go one-by-one to sign up for government assistance, leaving family members to watch over their belongings.

According to Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera, inspectors have examined damage at 10,903 properties so far and 83 percent of the structures are safe to live in. That means about 1,800 have been marked uninhabitable.

In all, some 43 shelters across the capital have tended to 24,000 people since the Sept. 19 quake, though many came just for a plate of food before finding a place to stay with friends or family.

It's unclear how long the shelters will be operating. Volunteers and government employees stationed at the Francisco Kino school—a shelter run largely by neighborhood residents—said it would stay open for the foreseeable future.

WORLD BRIEFS

Saudi Arabia to allow women to drive for 1st time next year

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Women will be allowed to drive for the first time next summer in Saudi Arabia, the ultra-conservative kingdom announced, marking a significant expansion of women's rights in the only the country that barred them from getting behind the wheel. While women in other Muslim countries drove freely, the kingdom's blanket ban attracted negative publicity for years. Neither Islamic law nor Saudi traffic law explicitly prohibited women from driving, but they were not issued licenses and were detained if they attempted to drive. Prince Khaled bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Washington and the king's son, said Tuesday that letting women drive is a "huge step forward" and that "society is ready.""This is the right time to do the right thing," he told reporters in the U.S. Women will be allowed to obtain licenses without the permission of a male relative.

Iran points at US and warns of new nuclear arms race

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Iran's deputy foreign minister pointed at the United States in warning on Tuesday that a new nuclear arms race and new competition to modernize nuclear weapons are starting. Abbas Araghchi made the comments during a high-level meeting of the U.N. General Assembly to promote International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, calling that goal "a legal, political and moral responsibility." But, he said, despite the cessation of the nuclear arms race for some years, "recently we hear (an) alarming announcement by a nuclear-weapon state that it intends to continuously strengthen and expand its nuclear arsenal to ensure its place 'at the top of the pack.'" This was a clear reference to U.S. President Donald Trump's comment in February that "a dream would be that no country would have nukes, but if countries are going to have nukes, we're going to be at the top of the pack."

Environment

Congress: Michigan, Great Lakes wolves could lose federal protection

By TODD SPANGLER
DETROIT FREE PRESS

WASHINGTON—Legislation under committee consideration in the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday moves to strip great wolves in the western Great Lakes states of protections they enjoy under the Endangered Species Act.

Less than two months after an appeals court in Washington, D.C., ruled that protection afforded wolves in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin should continue unless there is a further study, the House Federal Lands Subcommittee on Tuesday took up legislation that would reverse that decision.

A second bill — co-sponsored by several Republican Michigan members of Congress — would do much the same and is expected to get a vote as well.

The section regarding gray wolves' protection considered by the Federal Lands Subcommittee is part of a much larger bill that would take steps to ensure that public lands remain largely open to hunting and fishing.

During Tuesday's hearing, Democrats voiced deeper concerns about other portions of the legislation, including measures that would make it easier for people to buy firearm silencers and put more of a legal and financial burden on law enforcement when stopping a vehicle suspected of potentially transporting a firearm across state lines.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been attempting for years to de-list the 600 or so gray wolves in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and larger populations from Minnesota and Wisconsin from protection under the Endangered Species Act but have been turned back each time.

In the most recent ruling, the court said Fish and Wildlife could not go through with such a de-listing without studying what such a move would mean to the population across the rest of the U.S. Proponents of hunting wolves argue that the numbers are significantly recovered to allow for de-listing and that wolves increasingly threaten livestock, reduce deer populations and even threaten humans.

In August, Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, called such anecdotal evidence "fabricated" and "exaggerated," noting that in cases where wolves are found to kill livestock, farmers can get permission to kill wolves.

"Congress should not subvert the rulings of two federal courts affirming the conclusion that de-listing of wolves in the Great Lakes region is premature," Pacelle said Tuesday, adding that they help reduce auto collisions with deer by reducing the population. "The wolf population in the state is small and not increasing and Michigan voters have rejected trophy hunting of the animals by voting down two statewide ballot measures to allow it.

Michigan rejected wolf hunting in state referendums in 2014.

The legislation — like that co-sponsored by Republican U.S. Reps. Bill Huizenga of Zeeland, John Moolenaar of Midland and Tim Walberg of Tipton — calls for issuing the order de-listing wolves within 60 days of it being signed into law and prohibits any judicial review of the order.

"Basically, it's been technicalities in the rules (that have kept wolves listed). There's no question (they) belong off the endangered species list," said Anna Seidman, government affairs director for Safari Club International, a hunters rights group. "We need to end this endless court battle and have Congress step in."

While it's possible the full committee would send both measures to the full House for consideration, it's unlikely both would be scheduled for a vote. The more sweeping legislation could be seen as more of a priority then and could get top consideration.

But the legislation still faces difficulties: With so much before Congress between now and the end of the year, it could be caught in a logjam and Democratic members of the U.S. House, while outnumbered with Republicans in the majority, will likely try to do all they can to slow it, especially because of the firearm portions of the bill.

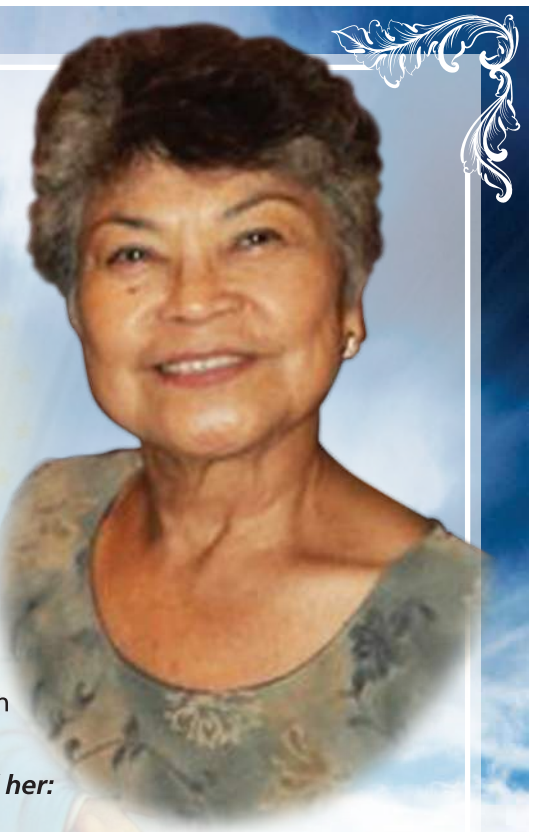
If it gets to the Senate, it would have to cross a 60-vote threshold. Republicans hold only a 52-seat majority in the Senate, though some Democrats from western and rural states potentially might be persuaded to vote for it with changes.

TNS
Isle Royale National Park in Michigan is an ideal outdoor laboratory to study wolves and moose.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Susana Ines Tenorio Mafnas

Fondly remembered as "**Sue**"



Born to life on April 14, 1941,
our beloved mother, Susana Ines Tenorio Mafnas,
was called to her eternal life on September 21, 2017.

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband: †Jesus Pangelinan Mafnas
Parents: †Blas and †Guadalupe Pangelinan Tenorio
Fathers In-Law: †Juan R. Mafnas and †Jose A. Concepcion
Grandson: †Francisco T. Flores

She will forever be remembered in the hearts and lives of her:

Children, In-laws, Grand- and Great-Grand Children:
Blas T. and Cristina L. Mafnas - Tyrone, Jess, Franklin (Caylee), Britney (Vinson, Vaden, Varon, ViJay, Victor), Blas Jude (Tyler, Lathan), Matthew, Ara, Shana, Christopher, and Breanna
Celina M. and Ramon W. Muna - Raymond and Patricia (Ronin Chase), Alaysha, and Jesus
Rufo T. and Ana Liza S. Mafnas - Annika and Miley
Jennifer M. and Richard S. Villagomez - Richard, Susana, Nieves, Ana, Guadalupe, and Jesus
Priscilla T. and Edward C. Dela Cruz - Zachary and Mercedes (Elijah)
Deborah M. Moore

Brothers/Sisters and In-Laws:
†**Jose** P. and Amparo DLG. Tenorio/†Andrea Camacho; †**Merced** T. and †Dionicio C. Torres; †**Dolores** T. and †Roman M. Benavente; **Pedro** P. and Sophia P. Tenorio; **Cecilia** T. and †Marcelino DLG. Camacho; **Juan** P. and Rita V. Tenorio; **Ramona** T. and Jesus T. Attao; †**Jose** P. and Liberty Mafnas; †**Maria** P. Mafnas; **Theresita** P. Mafnas; †**Antonia** M. and David Apatang; and **Antonio** P. and Cynthia C. Mafnas

Mother-in-Law: Victoria P. Concepcion

Aunt: Consolacion T. Sablan (Nan Chong Pitu)

Special Friend: Marian DLG. Tudela

Caretakers: Elsa Quizon and Yolanda Bautista

She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, God-children, and friends.

Daily mass of intention is being offered at 6:00 am at the Mount Carmel Cathedral and recitation of the holy rosary will be said at Kristo Rai Church at 7:00 pm on Wednesday and 6:00 pm on Thursday.

On **Friday, September 29, 2017**, our beloved Susana will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home in Chalan Kanoa to the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 am. Responso, recitation of the holy rosary, and viewing service will follow upon arrival. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery. Lunch will be served at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

God Bless and Thank You
The Children of †Jesus P. and †Susana T. Mafnas

Life & Style

Grateful cast, creators ready for 'Will & Grace' return

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As soon as Eric McCormack stepped into the old "Will & Grace" kitchen, he was Will Truman again. Debra Messing says she still feels like Grace Adler, but these days, she has to physically warm up before stepping into that persona. Megan Mullally said finding Karen again was "like riding a bike." For Sean Hayes, rediscovering Jack McFarland was "like waking up out of a coma, maybe—a Jack coma."

In this Sept. 23, 2017, file photo, the cast of "Will & Grace, from left, Eric McCormack, Megan Mullally, Debra Messing and Sean Hayes, attend a screening of the new season of the TV show during the Tribeca TV Festival at Cinepolis Chelsea in New York. AP

However they came back to their characters, all four actors say it's surreal that, 11 years after wrapping its award-winning run, "Will & Grace" is making an unprecedented return to prime time with its original cast, director and creative team. Inspired by a one-off, get-out-the-vote video ahead of the 2016 presidential election, the rebirth of "Will & Grace" begins Thursday. NBC has already ordered a second season.

"It's just nirvana," said James Burrows, who directed all 194 episodes during the show's original run from 1998 to 2006 and will helm all 29 of the new ones. "I'm quite elderly for this job, but it just invigorates me."

Like the series' stars, creators Max Mutchnick and David Kohan never expected a "Will & Grace" revival. Once the finale aired, the set was shipped off to Emerson College, where it remained behind glass for a decade, and Mutchnick and Kohan moved onto other projects.

About a year ago, Mutchnick said NBC called and wanted the set back (he never found out why), and that got him thinking about the show again. The contentious campaign between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton was reaching a fever pitch, and Mutchnick came up with a sketch for the "Will & Grace" foursome.

Making that 2016 video was "the first time in 11 years that the four of us were in the same place at the same time," Messing said. "And within 20 minutes, we were fondling each other."

The 10-minute "Vote Honey" short quickly racked up millions of views, but a series revival still wasn't on anyone's mind.

"There was never ever a moment of intention to do this," Mutchnick said from his office on the Universal Studios lot. But when NBC chief Bob Greenblatt called a few weeks after "Vote Honey" with interest in a full "Will & Grace" season, there was no hesitation.

"The weirdest thing about all of this is that it doesn't feel weird," Mullally said. "It just seems like, 'Of course we're here.' And we just went away for the weekend and came back on a Monday. I mean, honestly, it's crazy."

She said it was also "freak happenstance" that all four actors were available, given that all have worked steadily since the show wrapped. Hayes and McCormack each have other full-time gigs—Hayes is a prolific TV producer and McCormack stars in the Netflix series "Traveler." Mullally was focusing on music and recording with her band, Nancy and Beth. And Messing lives with her son in New York, though "Will & Grace" shoots in Los Angeles.

Prince Harry, Meghan Markle together at official event

TORONTO (AP)—Hand in hand, Prince Harry and girlfriend Meghan Markle made their first official public appearance as a couple. Markle might have even left a wedding hint.

The prince and Markle held hands Monday as they walked toward Toronto's city hall and attended a wheelchair tennis event at Harry's Invictus Games for wounded veterans.

Markle wore a white button-down shirt with blue jeans ripped at the knee. The white shirt is called "The Husband Shirt" and is by designer Misha Nonoo.

The 36-year-old American actress recently told Vanity Fair they're in love

Markle, who lives in Toronto, appeared at the games' opening ceremony this weekend, cheering from the stands while Harry sat four rows and a section away beside U.S. first lady Melania Trump.

The couple has been photographed together in the past but this is the first time they have appeared together at an official event. The two sat together and took in a match of the wheelchair tennis between Australia and New Zealand at the small venue. Both wore dark sunglasses on an uncommonly hot sunny day for Toronto in late September.

They stayed for a half hour and shook hands with the athletes and Invictus volunteers. They left together hand in hand.

Harry, 33, has been dating Markle since last year. He confirmed the relationship in November when he complained about intrusive press coverage.

The Vanity Fair interview prompted British bet-maker Betfair to offer 6-to-4 odds that the couple is engaged by the end of 2017 and 3-to-1 odds that they marry in 2018.

Best known as paralegal Rachel Zane in the US Network legal drama, "Suits," Markle has appeared on "General Hospital," ''CSI: Miami," ''Without A Trace" and "Castle." She also is a campaigner for gender equality.

The Invictus Games are the creation of Harry, who got the inspiration to help wounded and sick military personnel and their families after his two tours of duty in Afghanistan. This is the third Invictus Games. About 550 competitors from 17 countries are slated to compete in 12 sports over the next week.

Comic legend Stan Lee to raise money for Irma victims

MIAMI (AP)—Comic-book publisher Stan Lee has been writing about superheroes for his entire career, and now he's hoping to be one himself for some of the victims of Hurricane Irma.

The co-creator of Spider-Man, Iron Man, Daredevil and tons of other Marvel Comics characters is coming to MegaCon Tampa Bay this weekend, and he's working with organizers to raise money for storm victims.

"I feel there's something everybody has to do to help the victims of the weather, of the hurricane," Lee said. "And if I can do my part by auctioning some stuff off, I'm more than happy to do it."

Lee is auctioning off a one-on-one meal, as well as artwork from his personal collection, during his panel on Friday. Convention organizer Andrew Moyes said they're also donating $5 each from 2,000 tickets sold online to Feeding Florida, a statewide network of food banks that are providing storm victims with food and emergency supplies. Between the auction and ticket sales, MegaCon Tampa Bay and fans should donate an estimated $20,000 for hurricane relief.

"We really felt that Florida was in need of that extra bit of magic," Moyes said. "What better person to inject some inspiration and cheer than Stan Lee himself?"

Lee wasn't originally scheduled to attend the Tampa event, but Moyes said they had worked with him previously for other conventions and knew Lee would be a great addition following the beating Florida took when Hurricane Irma made landfall on Sept. 10.

"He was on board right away to help out any way he can," Moyes said. "That's just the type of person he is."

While Lee is happy to help the storm victims, the 94-year-old said he gets the added enjoyment of meeting with fans and talking about comics.

"I keep saying, I've got to slow down somehow," Lee said. "And then I hear that there's a new convention, and I can't resist. I've got to be in it."

After more than half a century, Lee's affection for comics and the characters he helped create is as strong as ever.

"The thing that impresses me the most is the fact these characters have lasted, have lived this long, even without me writing them," Lee said. "In fact, some of the writers now may be a hell of a lot better than I was. The characters live and thrive, and they're more popular than ever. As their father, you might say, that's really a good feeling."

MegaCon Tampa Bay runs from Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at the Tampa Convention Center. Other celebrity guests include William Shatner ("Star Trek") and John Barrowman ("Arrow" and "Doctor Who").

Idina Menzel marries one-time 'Rent' co-star Aaron Lohr

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Frozen" star Idina Menzel has married actor Aaron Lohr.

Menzel posted wedding pictures to her Facebook page on Monday, writing: "Wanted to let you know... married the love of my life Aaron Lohr this weekend at our home. Dad & son walked me down the aisle. It was magical."

Her off-the-shoulder lace gown was designed by Carolina Herrera.

The 46-year-old Menzel and Lohr, who's 41, appeared in the 2005 film adaptation of the musical "Rent." They also share a Disney background. Menzel provides the voice for Queen Elsa and her "Let It Go" anthem in "Frozen." Lohr appeared in Disney's Mighty Ducks movies and the company's 1992 musical "Newsies."

This is the second marriage for Menzel, who shares a son with ex-husband Taye Diggs.

To women of color, Rihanna's cosmetics launch is personal

AP
Singer Rihanna poses for photographers upon arrival at the Fenty Beauty by Rihanna fashion range launch during London Fashion Week in London, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017.

NEW YORK (AP)— Worokya Duncan is the director of inclusion for a private school in Manhattan, so her embrace of diversity is a no-brainer. She's also a big makeup person frustrated over the years by cosmetics companies that don't seem to get how important it is for women of color like her to be serviced, too.

"No line really had what I considered my shade of foundation," she said. "There was always like an orange line somewhere. I would have to have my hair down so you couldn't see where the foundation color and my actual skin color separated. Why is it so hard? Because people still find it novel that there's beauty found in black and brown bodies in the first place."

Enter one doozy of a beauty: Rihanna. She launched her Fenty Beauty line earlier this month to raves from industry media and consumers alike.

The superstar spent two years developing her products, which include 40 shades of matte foundations, from the palest of pale to deep, deep brown with cool undertones.

"We're all just, like, giddy over here," said Julee Wilson, the fashion and beauty editor for Essence. "I knew that she was going to be thoughtful. You expect that from a woman of color coming out with a cosmetics line, but I was honestly shocked at how inclusive the line is."

The cruelty-free collection has been selling out since Rihanna launched it online and in Sephora and Harvey Nichols stores Sept. 7 across 17 countries. Darker shades of foundation went first, challenging the notion that the consumer market in those colors isn't worth it to the bottom lines of beauty brands.

Wilson and Cat Quinn, the beauty director for the millennial-focused lifestyle site Refinery29, were in a small group of beauty editors who met with Rihanna before the launch to hear her explain her vision.

"I think the thing that people are connecting to most, and why this is doing so well, is because you can really feel the passion and the purpose behind this line," Quinn said. "It's not another celebrity makeup line that sometimes people feel a little disconnected with. For her, she saw a gap in the market. She saw women not being represented."

In addition to foundations, the line includes a range of palettes and sticks, all developed with help from a prestigious beauty brand incubator called Kendo (it helped launch Kat Von D and Marc Jacobs in cosmetics, too.) Launching such a vast range of shades at once in so many countries is unusual in beauty, Quinn said.

Television host Hilari Younger, in Bethesda, Maryland, was first in line on launch day at a Sephora in a mall in her hometown. She spent $270 on Fenty Beauty.

"My skin tone is on the mocha, clove side. I've tried custom blends, very exclusive lines. The beauty industry is not here for the dark-skinned girls. Either they put too much red in the makeup or it's too yellow or it's too oily or it's just not available," she said. "This makeup is magical. I was completely skeptical but pleasantly surprised."

Shavonne Fagan, the manager of a New York clothing store, was in the crowd at a midnight launch event featuring Rihanna at a Sephora in Times Square, but Fagan's foundation shade quickly sold out, so she hit up a different New York store several days later and dropped $150 on Fenty Beauty.

"Before Fenty came out there were only three foundations I could find that matched my skin and only one that got my undertone right," she said. "It's terribly frustrating. One girl started to cry in the Sephora when the person put the foundation on her skin and it matched."

Rihanna herself told the AP in a recent interview she relied on friends of all colors to help test the line, "because I feel horrible excluding people from things that I created for them."

The beauty editors said quality was key for a splashy launch of this kind.

"You know, you can match everyone with a foundation, but if the foundation sucks then it doesn't really serve its purpose," Quinn said. "It's actually a really amazing foundation. It's super long wearing. It's lightweight but it has really good coverage. Rihanna told us she wanted something that's sweat proof and life proof and it really is."

Wilson and Quinn agreed that Rihanna's move into beauty is more than just makeup.

"It's become more like a social movement. People are posting pictures and personal stories, like a woman on Instagram with albinism who grew up never having a foundation shade that was light with peach undertones, or a woman with really dark skin who could never find the right undertones. You're seeing buzz that's really moving," Quinn said.

Celebrities of color have also taken notice. Gabourey Sidibe posted a photo of support wearing Fenty foundation and a 2-year-old girl having some sparkly Rihanna makeup fun has popped up on YouTube .

The product packaging is magnetized, so the cases stick together in a cosmetics bag, and there's plenty of room for the line to grow. There's only one lip product, a universal tube called Gloss Bomb, for instance, and there's no mascara, dedicated eyeshadow or eyeliner, though some of those will be coming Oct. 13. There's a blotting paper dispenser with a little mirror inside, because Rihanna hates shine, and the line includes brushes and a sponge. One brush she specifically designed in the shape of a shark's tooth, angled for more precise application of highlighter.

"I'm hoping that other brands take notice and see that speaking to women of color is a key to success," Wilson said. "It's smart in a business sense and it just should be done because we are part of this world and we have money to spend and we're spending it when companies are speaking to us."

Rihanna, who first competed in a beauty pageant at age 15, often does her own make up in three steps and set up her collection along those lines, with plenty of sparkly and shimmery options for fun and neutrals for every day, Quinn and Wilson said. She played right into warm, rusty colors for fall, Quinn said, and many of the highlighters can be used on the lip and eye along with cheeks.

"It shouldn't be groundbreaking but it is," Quinn said.

Looking back, mom regrets children's unhappy childhood

DEAR ABBY: I got pregnant very young and married the father. It was in the '60s and things were very different then. I didn't realize my husband simply did not like children. I attributed it to his being in the Marines, a Vietnam vet, etc. We had never heard of PTSD, but he probably had it. We struggled, and he was very abusive to the children, even when they were small.

After 17 years we divorced, but I feel my children always got a raw deal. Things are so different now. Single women are proud of being unmarried and pregnant. Men are taking a much more active role in caring for their children. Every time I see a father holding, feeding, smiling or interacting with his children I feel such sadness that it was never like that for us. Sometimes I have fantasies where I have taken the children and left. I regret very much that I didn't.

My first husband is dead now, but I still have these feelings of regret. Would it help to write letters to my children telling them how I feel? I would put the letters away and give them to them either when I feel the time is right, or for them to read after my death.

REGRETS IN LIFE

DEAR REGRETS: I don't know how old your children are now, but if they were born in the '60s, I assume they are well into their 50s. The time to communicate this to them is NOW. Instead of putting your apologies in a letter, why not say it directly? They probably need to hear it from you. And when you discuss this with them, remind them that at the time they were conceived, it was the era of shotgun weddings, and divorce was less common than it is today.

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine had to move out of her apartment suddenly about a week ago. She's leaving the country in a few weeks and plans to look for a new place when she returns. We told her she's welcome to stay with us until then.

I know this may seem a strange complaint about a houseguest, but she's TOO polite. She refuses to walk into the house even though I have told her to let herself in or I call out "come in" when she rings the doorbell. Instead, she waits until we answer the door. She asks before using anything or even getting a glass of water.

Abby, if this was a guest we don't see often coming to visit, of course we'd be happy to attend to the person's needs or feel obliged to eat meals together. But I consider this to be more of a temporary roommate situation, and I don't want to feel like we have company every day.

My husband and I work long hours. When we come home from work, we want to be lazy, lie on the sofa and order takeout if neither of us feels like cooking. How do I tell her that while her consideration is appreciated, I really NEED her to relax a bit and make herself at home?

FRUSTRATED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FRUSTRATED: The way to tell her is exactly the way you explained it to me -- that because she's a friend, you want to dispense with the formalities and just relax. And for her to ignore your wishes would be inconsiderate.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

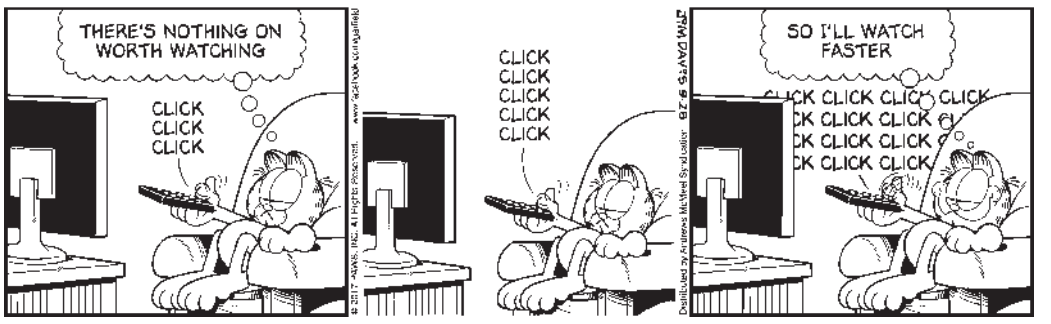
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HI, CALVIN. I BROUGHT MR. BUN OVER SO WE CAN PLAY HOUSE. YOU AND I CAN BE THE PARENTS, AND HOBBES AND MR. BUN CAN BE OUR CHILDREN.
OH, RIGHT. HOBBES AND I ARE GONNA PUT OUR BIG PLANS ON HOLD SO WE CAN PLAY HOUSE WITH A STUFFED RABBIT? FORGET IT!
I DON'T SEE WHY YOU'LL PLAY WITH YOUR DUMB OL' TIGER AND NOT WITH MR. BUN AND ME! YOU'RE JUST MEAN, THAT'S ALL!
GO PLAY IN A MICROWAVE, SUSIE. WE'RE BUSY.
GIRLS ARE LIKE SLUGS- THEY PROBABLY SERVE SOME PURPOSE, BUT IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE WHAT.
MR. BUN SEEMS COMATOSE. DID YOU NOTICE?

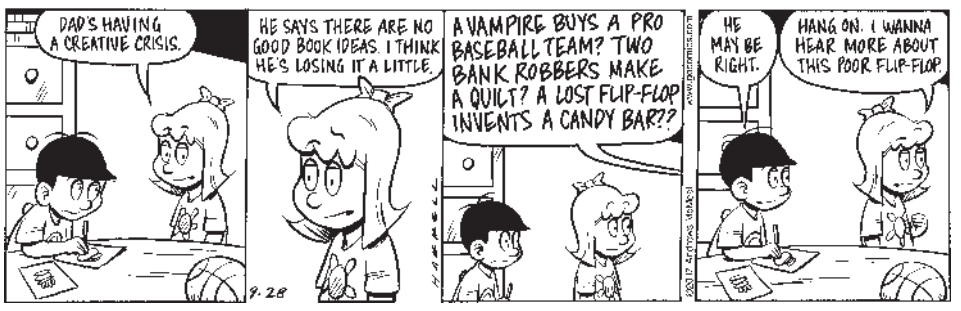
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD'S HAVING A CREATIVE CRISIS.
HE SAYS THERE ARE NO GOOD BOOK IDEAS. I THINK HE'S LOSING IT A LITTLE.
A VAMPIRE BUYS A PRO BASEBALL TEAM? TWO BANK ROBBERS MAKE A QUILT? A LOST FLIP-FLOP INVENTS A CANDY BAR??
HE MAY BE RIGHT.
HANG ON. I WANNA HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS POOR FLIP-FLOP.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Luminary
5 Retrieve
8 Leading man?
12 Greet silently
13 "Norma —"
14 Stereo alternative
15 Perched on
16 Goof up
17 Aware of
18 Caveat word
20 "Sherlock" actor Freeman
22 Hostel
23 Rotating part
24 Yankee nickname
27 One and only
32 The Silver St.
33 A billion years
34 Cistern
35 Conquered
38 Lugosi of film
39 Dijon denial
40 Shock partner
42 Insist on
45 "The Bathers" painter
49 During
50 Suitable
52 Taunt
53 Tubular pasta
54 "Gee, ya think?"
55 Unrepaired
56 Diminutive suffix
57 Tummy muscles
58 For fear that

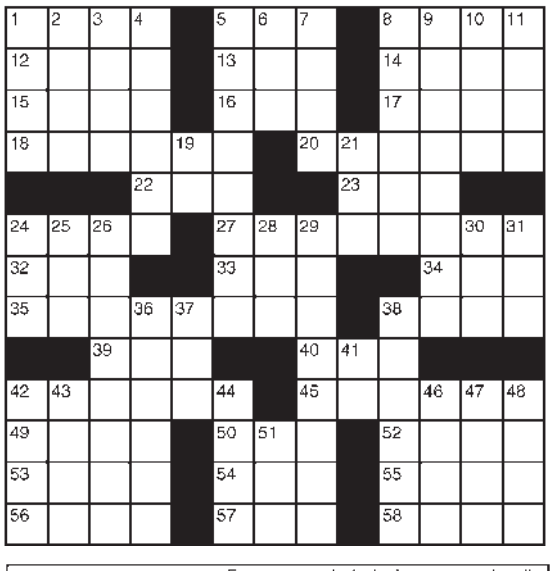
DOWN

1 Clear the decks?
2 London gallery
3 Acknowledge
4 Settled a debt
5 Chinese drink
6 Corn serving
7 School session
8 Unprincipled
9 "Stay there!"
10 Con
11 Apollo 11 destination
19 ICU worker
21 High card
24 Year in Spain
25 Speed (up)
26 Pan handler?
28 Computer acronym
29 Digs up
30 Kilmer of "Top Gun"
31 LAX info
36 Band hand
37 Wolf Blitzer's channel
38 — tiger
41 You and I
42 Stupor
43 Send forth
44 Arp's art
46 French river
47 Nile bird
48 Take it easy
51 Tavern

Solution time: 24 mins.

M	O	M	S		M	U	M		S	N	A	P
A		E	E		I	R	E		W	E	R	E
N	E	W	W	O	R	L	D		A	W	E	S
N	O	S	I	R			S	K	I	H	A	T
			N	A	D	A		I	N	A		
G	O	N	G		I	D	O	L		V	A	T
A	D	E		A	S	I	A	N		E	R	E
P	E	W		U	H	O	H		O	N	C	E
		B	O	N		S	U	R	F			
S	P	L	I	T	S			I	N	E	P	T
P	O	O	L		N	E	W	C	O	M	E	R
A		O	E		A	C	E		T	I	N	E
T	O	D	D		G	O	B		E	L	S	E

Yesterday's answer 9-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kirsten Prout, 27; Hilary Duff, 30; Mira Sorvino, 50; Janeane Garofalo, 53.

Happy Birthday: Listen to what others have to say. Your ability to reach out and make others feel comfortable will be helpful when trying to get things done. Don't feel rushed or let anyone push you using emotional tactics or giving you ultimatums. A steady approach to life, love and prosperity will be the best way to ward off interference, meddling and uncertainty. Your numbers are 5, 16, 23, 26, 31, 38, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Being dependable and not giving in to temptation will help you avoid getting trapped in something that can only make you look bad. Don't take on someone else's battles or get dragged into an excessive situation. Hard work will pay off. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Personal opinions are best kept a secret when dealing with peers, siblings and authority figures. Your best course of action is to take care of your responsibilities. A day trip or romantic getaway will lead to a new beginning. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep busy. Whether you volunteer your services or decide to get into a fitness routine, it will do you some good and keep you out of trouble. Do more, say less, and see what happens. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Some of your associates may not be the best influence on you. Consider your options and stay away from anyone who is erratic, indulgent or too demanding. Be honest about your likes and dislikes, and choose your friends wisely. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Put more effort into the way you present who you are and the skills you have to offer. Showing responsibility and the desire to excel will put you in a position to advance. Celebrate with someone you love. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Plan something relaxing that will give you the boost you need to feel good about yourself and your life. Romance should be a priority. Refuse to let anyone make you feel guilty for taking time out for yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Consider your objectives and the best way to go about getting what you want. Taking an obscure route rather than following the crowd or making an impulsive move because someone else does will be your best alternative. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Get involved in events you believe in. Your passionate approach to life and love will put you in a unique position when dealing with matters of concern. You can make a difference if you take action. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Look for a unique way to take care of business. It's OK to stand out if you believe in what you are doing. Use your imagination when looking for ways to counter a problem. Take better care of your health. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Spend more time taking care of your mental, emotional and physical needs. A financial opportunity will lead to a better standard of living. Before you take on an added expense, look for ways to get what you want for less. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Partnership issues will need to be addressed. Express your feelings and be willing to listen and compromise in order to come up with a plan that works for everyone. A change to a contract or investment will help you boost your income. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Partner with someone who has as much to offer you as you do. A chance to use your creative skills and unique ideas will encourage you to take a more active role in making your dreams come true. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, impatient and fascinating. You are popular and outgoing.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7		2				
	4		6		9	5		
1							8	
	9		1				4	
5								3
	2				8		5	
	5							9
		4	7		3		6	
				5		7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	9	8	2	1	6	4	7	3
1	7	4	3	5	8	9	2	6
3	6	2	9	7	4	1	5	8
6	2	1	8	4	5	7	3	9
9	8	5	7	3	1	2	6	4
7	4	3	6	9	2	8	1	5
8	1	7	4	6	3	5	9	2
4	3	9	5	2	7	6	8	1
2	5	6	1	8	9	3	4	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BASEBALL CHANGEUP PITCHERS Solution: 7 letters

D	E	P	R	O	N	A	T	I	N	G	D	C	B	V
E	O	L	I	N	I	P	S	L	I	P	A	D	U	R
C	G	W	C	T	W	R	I	G	H	T	E	L	E	O
E	K	N	N	R	C	E	C	R	C	H	C	O	H	T
L	M	A	I	W	I	H	C	H	G	A	H	H	R	A
E	O	S	E	M	A	C	E	A	N	R	A	C	L	T
R	T	E	A	R	I	R	S	R	P	D	N	I	E	I
A	I	J	H	N	B	T	D	T	I	E	G	R	S	N
T	O	A	D	A	R	F	N	R	R	N	E	I	U	G
E	N	E	T	A	I	E	E	E	E	I	I	N	F	L
D	X	T	I	N	E	C	T	L	M	L	K	G	N	A
I	E	G	G	L	T	A	V	S	D	E	E	E	O	V
R	H	E	G	I	L	E	A	T	A	D	V	A	C	I
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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

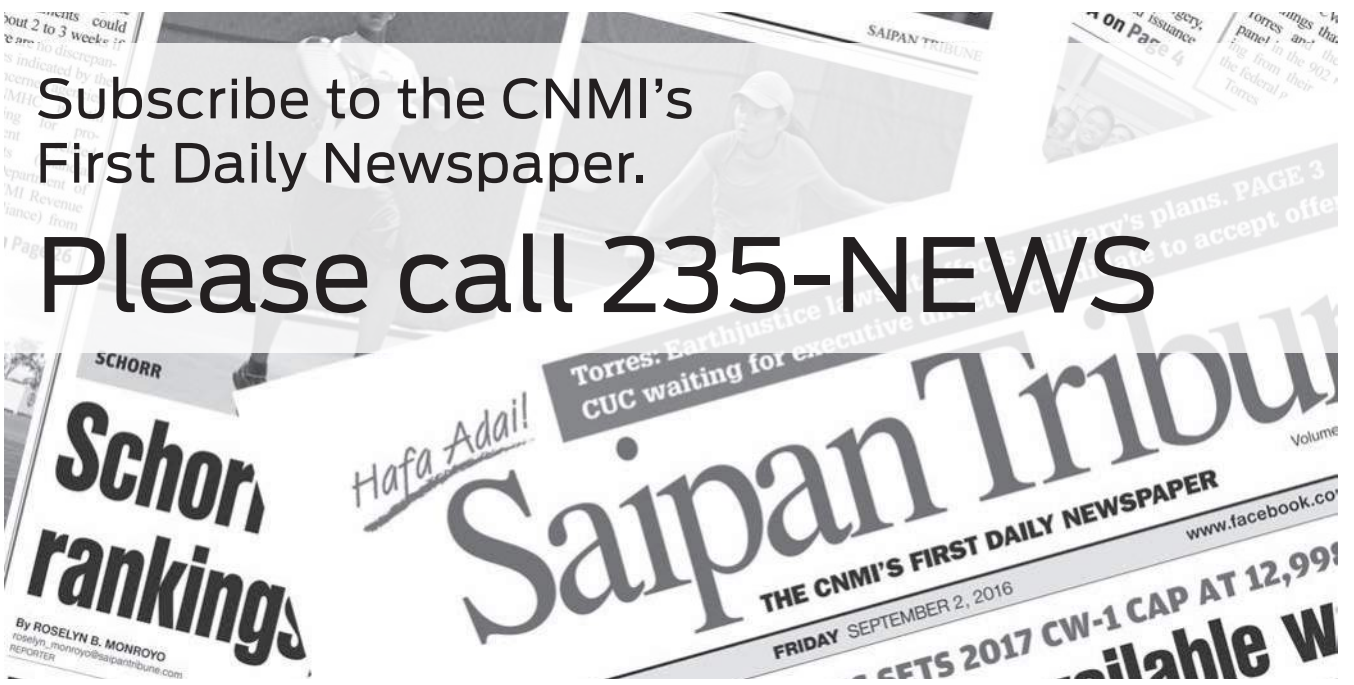
The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) wishes to announce four vacancies on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross-section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four time annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Frankie M. Eliptico, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai. Letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2017. For additional information please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.



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Dodgers rout Padres to clinch NL home field

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Adrian Gonzalez hit his third home run of an injury-plagued season and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Diego Padres 9-2 on Tuesday night to clinch home-field advantage throughout the National League playoffs.

Yasmani Grandal and Corey Seager each had a three-run homer to back Alex Wood (16-3) as the NL West champions improved to 101-57. The victory, coupled with Washington's loss at Philadelphia, guaranteed the Dodgers will finish with the best record in the NL.

They'll open a best-of-five Division Series at home Oct. 6 against the winner of the NL wild-card game, hosted by Arizona. The Diamondbacks' opponent has not been determined yet.

The Dodgers also moved closer to securing home-field advantage if they reach the World Series for the first time since 1988. They are 2 1/2 games ahead of Cleveland (98-59) for the top mark in the majors.

Los Angeles has scored nine runs against the Padres in consecutive games and won three straight overall.

Hunter Renfroe hit his 25th home run for San Diego, breaking the club's rookie record set by Nate Colbert in 1969.

Wood (16-3) needed just six pitches to get through the first inning. He pitched well until the fifth, when he allowed solo homers by Renfroe and Christian Villanueva.

Villanueva's drive to right field was ruled a home run after a replay review determined there was fan interference.

Aside from the home runs, Wood was in command yet again. He gave up two runs and eight hits in six innings, striking out one and issuing an intentional walk.

Wood and teammate Clayton Kershaw have combined for 34 wins this season. Kershaw will make an abbreviated start Saturday at Colorado in his final appearance before the playoffs.

Gonzalez, making his first start in two weeks and fighting for a spot on the postseason roster, hit an opposite-field solo shot to left in the seventh inning. It was his first home run since Aug. 24. He also doubled.

Seager added his three-run drive in the seventh.

Padres starter Dinelson Lamet (7-8) had command issues as he walked six -- one intentional -- and allowed four runs on four hits in five innings.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Chase Utley, right, scores as San Diego Padres catcher Luis Torrens drops the throw from first baseman Wil Myers during the third inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017.

Twins 8, Indians 6

In Cleveland, Brian Dozier's three-run homer in the eighth inning pushed Minnesota to the brink of a playoff berth as the Twins rallied for a victory over Cleveland. The Indians lost for just the third time in 32 games.

Dozier connected for his 33rd homer against Bryan Shaw (4-6) as the Twins lowered their magic number for clinching a playoff berth to one.

Edwin Encarnacion hit his 38th homer and drove in four runs for the Indians, whose 29-3 mark over 32 games is the best in the majors since the 1947 New York Yankees accomplished the feat.

Taylor Rogers (7-3), one of a club-record 10 pitchers used by Twins manager Paul Molitor, got two outs in the seventh and Matt Belisle worked the ninth for his eighth save.

Yankees 6, Rays 1

In New York, Aaron Hicks robbed Wilson Ramos of a first-inning grand slam in the outfielder's return from the disabled list, and the Yankees clinched home-field advantage if they end up in the AL wild-card game next week.

Tampa Bay's first three batters reached against rookie Jordan Montgomery (9-7), and Hicks leaped at the 385-foot sign in right-center to get his glove above the wall. He squeezed the webbing tight, preventing the ball from popping out and limiting Ramos to a sacrifice fly.

Assured no worse than a wild-card berth, the Yankees closed within three games of AL East-leading Boston with five remaining.

Tampa Bay (76-81) was eliminated from playoff contention and missed the postseason for the fourth straight year. Blake Snell (4-7) got the loss.

Rockies 6, Marlins 0

In Denver, Trevor Story hit a three-run homer and Tyler Anderson pitched seven superb innings, helping Colorado maintain its slim lead for the second NL wild card.

The Rockies notched their first win over the Marlins in five tries this season and stayed 1 1/2 games ahead of Milwaukee.

Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer in the fifth for Colorado. Anderson (6-6) allowed four hits and walked none.

Miami starter Jose Urena (14-7) yielded six runs over five innings. The right-hander allowed a total of six runs in four previous starts this month.

Angels 9, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Mike Trout hit his 31st homer, Albert Pujols joined Alex Rodriguez as the only players with 100 RBI in 14 seasons, and the fading Angels won on the road.

Los Angeles remained five games behind Minnesota for the final AL wild card with five to play.

Trout, Brandon Phillips and Luis Valbuena homered off Chris Volstad (1-1) during a six-run second inning. Parker Bridwell (9-3) improved to 5-0 in nine road starts.

Jose Abreu had three hits for Chicago, including his 32nd and 33rd homers.

Blue Jays 9, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Red Sox ace Chris Sale matched a career worst by giving up four home runs in a playoff tuneup, including a pair to Josh Donaldson.

Teoscar Hernandez hit one of his two homers off Sale, and Kendrys Morales had the other against the left-hander. Sale (17-8) allowed five runs in five innings and surrendered multiple homers for the third time in five starts.

J.A. Happ (10-11) struck out nine while pitching seven strong innings for the last-place Blue Jays. He was charged with one run and four hits.

Pirates 10, Orioles 1

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen hit his first career grand slam and drove in eight runs, powering Pittsburgh to the victory.

McCutchen raised a fist in triumph as he rounded the bases after connecting against Kevin Gausman (11-11) in the second inning. He also hit an RBI double in the first, singled in the fifth and belted a three-run homer in the seventh.

McCutchen's eight RBI were one off the franchise record and the most by a Pirate since Jason Bay in 2004.

Trevor Williams (7-9) pitched six innings of one-run ball and rookie Steven Brault finished the five-hitter for his first career save.

Astros 14, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Carlos Correa, Brian McCann and Cameron Maybin each drove in three runs, and Houston clinched no worse than the second-best record in the American League.

Houston (97-60) trails Cleveland by one game with five to play in the race for the league's best record. The Indians own the tiebreaker, having won the season series.

Astros left-hander Dallas Keuchel (14-5) struck out eight while pitching six effective innings.

Rangers ace Cole Hamels (11-5) was charged with six runs in three-plus innings.

Cardinals 8, Cubs 7

In St. Louis, Tommy Pham and Randal Grichuk homered, and the Cardinals denied the Cubs a chance at clinching the NL Central title.

Matt Carpenter and Jedd Gyorko also connected for St. Louis, which is 2 1/2 games back in the race for the second NL wild card. Zach Duke (1-1) got the win and Juan Nicasio earned his fifth save.

Jason Heyward hit a three-run homer for Chicago, and Ben Zobrist also went deep. Jake Arrieta (14-10) was charged with three earned runs in three innings.

Brewers 7, Reds 6

In Milwaukee, Domingo Santana hit a three-run homer in Milwaukee's four-run first, and the Brewers held on for the win.

Milwaukee remained 1 1/2 games behind Colorado for the second NL wild card. Josh Hader (2-3) earned the win, and Corey Knebel worked the ninth for his 38th save.

Scott Schebler, Zack Cozart and Jesse Winker homered for last-place Cincinnati, which has dropped seven in a row. Rookie Deck McGuire (0-1) allowed four earned runs in three innings.

Diamondbacks 11, Giants 4

In Phoenix, J.D. Martinez hit a grand slam and drove in six runs, leading Arizona and its lineup of regulars over San Francisco.

Martinez continued his torrid September in which he has 15 home runs, 35 RBI and seven doubles with a .414 batting average. He has 28 homers since the Diamondbacks acquired him from Detroit, tied with Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton for most in the majors since July 19.

The six RBI tied a career high, and Martinez's total of 103 RBI on the season is a career best.

Phillies 4, Nationals 1

In Philadelphia, Jake Thompson pitched four-hit ball into the sixth inning, and Philadelphia spoiled Bryce Harper's return from a knee injury.

With the loss, Washington locked itself into the second seed in the NL playoffs behind the Dodgers. The Nationals will host the NL Central champion in a Division Series beginning Oct. 6 at Nationals Park.

Thompson (3-2) was charged with a run in five-plus innings. Hector Neris struck out the side in the ninth for his 25th save.

Harper played for the first time since hyperextending and bruising his left knee on Aug. 12. He was 0 for 2 with a walk before being lifted in the fifth inning.

Mariners 6, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Danny Valencia hit a three-run homer against his former team and fellow ex-Oakland slugger Yonder Alonso added a two-run shot for Oakland.

Khris Davis matched his career high from last season with his 42nd homer, a two-run shot in the sixth to put Oakland ahead before Valencia's 15th of the year in the seventh off Daniel Mengden (2-2).

Emilio Pagan (2-3) pitched 1 2/3 innings in relief of James Paxton for the win, then Edwin Diaz closed it out for his 33rd save.

Mets 4, Braves 3

In New York, Travis Taijeron hit a game-ending RBI single in the ninth, sending the Mets to the win.

New York was stymied by R.A. Dickey much of the night and trailed 3-0 in the seventh before Kevin Plawecki hit a two-run homer off the 42-year-old knuckleballer. Asdrubal Cabrera tied it with a sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Jeurys Familia (2-2) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

Royals 2, Tigers 1

In Kansas City, Jason Vargas moved into a tie for the major league lead with his 18th victory, leading the Royals over the struggling Tigers.

Vargas (18-10) went six innings to match Cleveland's Corey Kluber and the Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw for most wins in the majors. He gave up a run and five hits.

The Tigers have dropped eight straight to fall to 4-21 in September. Anibal Sanchez (3-6) took the loss, allowing two runs and seven hits in six innings.

Wade to sign with Cavs, reunite with LeBron

CLEVELAND (AP)—Together again: LeBron and D-Wade. Just like old times.

Dwyane Wade has decided to sign with the Cleveland Cavaliers and reunite with LeBron James, a person familiar with the situation told the Associated Press on Tuesday night.

Wade is expected to clear waivers on Wednesday and then join the Cavs, according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot be completed until the 12-time All-Star goes through the waiver process.

In Cleveland, Wade will be reunited with James, his close friend, former Miami teammate and a player he confided in before signing with his hometown Chicago Bulls last year.

Wade and James won two NBA titles together during four seasons with the Heat and will now chase another one with the Cavs, who have been revamped after losing to Golden State in last season's Finals.

On Monday, James said he would love to play with Wade again.

"He brings another championship pedigree, championship DNA," James said at Cleveland's media day. "He brings another player to the team who can get guys involved, can make plays and also has a great basketball mind. ... I hope we can bring him here. I would love to have him."

Once Wade completes the waiver formality, he'll be the latest high-profile player to join the Cavs, who traded for All-Star point guard Isaiah Thomas, signed former league MVP Derrick Rose and added two strong wing defenders in Jae Crowder and Jeff Green, who could help them defend the Warriors if those teams get back to a fourth straight Finals matchup.

Thomas isn't expected to play until January because of a hip injury, but until he returns the Cavs have plenty of firepower in James, Wade, Rose and All-Star Kevin Love, who could thrive as Cleveland's No. 2 scoring threat now that Kyrie Irving is in Boston.

Wade agreed to a contract buyout earlier this week with the Bulls, who signed him before last season as a free agent. He'll get a veteran's minimum contract worth $2.3 million with Cleveland, which now has a surplus of shooting guards with Wade, J.R. Smith and Kyle Korver and Iman Shumpert on the roster.

Cavs coach Tyronn Lue has depth and decisions to make.

"There's a challenge every year when you add new guys and add all the guys we added," Lue said. "Four or five new guys, it's always tough and challenging. Anytime you get new pieces and new players it's always challenging, but I'm up for the challenge and so are the players. We will figure it out. It will be a good year for us."

AP

Dwyane Wade, left, has decided to sign with the Cleveland Cavaliers and reunite with LeBron James.

The Cavaliers emerged Tuesday as front-runners over the Heat and Oklahoma City Thunder to land the 35-year-old Wade, who many feel has plenty of game left.

He'll now have a shot at another championship—his fourth—while playing alongside James, whom he has been friends with since they broke into the league together in 2003. When James left Cleveland as a free agent in 2010 and signed with Miami, much of his reason for leaving his home state was a chance to play with Wade and Chris Bosh.

Wade played his first 13 seasons in Miami, leaving in the summer of 2016 to sign a two-year deal with the Bulls. But the Bulls are in a rebuilding mode after trading Jimmy Butler this summer, and instead of paying Wade $23.8 million to play for what likely will be a struggling team they agreed this weekend to buy him out and let him find a better situation.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Wade said whatever decision he makes would be "a pure basketball decision and I'll make the one that I feel fits me best at this point in my career and with what I feel I have to offer a team that needs what I have to offer."

Following practice on Tuesday, Cavaliers forward Tristan Thompson said Wade would be a great fit in Cleveland.

"He's a guy that's proven, not just individually, but a team that won three championships," Thompson said. "He's pretty familiar with most of the guys on our team. ... He's always been a good locker room guy. We've never heard anything bad.

"It would be great for our team to have another championship-mentality player."

Wade has averaged 23.3 points, 4.8 rebounds and 5.7 assists in 14 seasons. He averaged 18.3, 4.5 rebounds and 3.8 assists for the Bulls.

One of the game's premier closers in the postseason, Wade has averaged 22.5 points, 5.3 rebounds and 5.0 assists in 172 playoff games.

4 coaches charged in college bribe scheme

NEW YORK (AP)—In one of the biggest crackdowns on the corrupting role of money in college basketball, 10 men—including a top Adidas executive and four assistant coaches—were charged Tuesday with using hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to influence star athletes' choice of schools, shoe sponsors, agents, even tailors.

Some of the most explosive allegations appeared to involve Louisville, one of college basketball's biggest powerhouses, which is already on NCAA probation over a sex scandal.

Federal prosecutors said at least three top high school recruits were promised payments of as much as $150,000, using money supplied by Adidas, to attend two universities sponsored by the athletic shoe company. Court papers didn't name the schools but contained enough details to identify them as Louisville and Miami.

"The picture of college basketball painted by the charges is not a pretty one," said acting U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim, adding that the defendants were "circling blue-chip prospects like coyotes" and exploited them to enrich themselves.

Prosecutors said that while some of the bribe money went to athletes and their families, some went to coaches, to get them to use their influence over their potentially NBA-bound players.

The coaches charged are Chuck Person of Auburn, Emanuel Richardson of Arizona, Tony Bland of Southern California and Lamont Evans of Oklahoma State. Person and Evans were suspended, and Bland was placed on administrative leave.

Bland appeared in court in Tampa, Florida, wearing handcuffs and ankle chains. He said little during a brief hearing other than to answer the judge's questions and did not enter a plea.

Richardson appeared in court in Tucson, Arizona, where he was set for release on $50,000 bond. His lawyer declined to comment.

Those charged also include James Gatto, director of global sports marketing for basketball at Adidas; Rashan Michel, a maker of custom suits for some of the NBA's biggest stars; and various financial advisers and managers.

NCAA President Mark Emmert condemned the alleged misconduct, saying, "Coaches hold a unique position of trust with student-athletes and their families, and these bribery allegations, if true, suggest an extraordinary and despicable breach of that trust."

Since 2015, the FBI has been investigating the influence of money on coaches and players in the NCAA. Kim noted a special FBI hotline was set up and asked anyone aware of additional corruption to come forward.

Prosecutors said the coaches took bribes to use their "enormous influence" to steer players toward certain financial advisers and agents.

Most if not all of the 10 defendants were under arrest. Lawyers for Gatto and two of the coaches did not immediately respond to requests for comment. It was unclear whether Evans had an attorney.

Adidas said it was unaware of any misconduct by an employee and vowed to fully cooperate with authorities.

Gatto and others are accused of funneling $100,000 to the family of a high school athlete to gain his commitment to play at Louisville and to sign with Adidas once he became a professional. Louisville and Adidas announced a 10-year, $160 million extension of their sponsorship deal over the summer.

The player's name was not released, but details in the criminal complaint make it clear investigators were referring to Brian Bowen, who did not return messages seeking comment.

Louisville coach Rick Pitino said the allegations "come as a complete shock to me."

The development comes as Louisville is appealing a four-year NCAA probation over a scandal involving escorts hired for players and recruits. The scandal could cost the school its 2013 national championship.

In court papers Tuesday, the FBI said it recorded a July meeting at which an assistant coach at Louisville was briefed on a plan to funnel thousands of dollars to a potential high school recruit. The participants in the meeting noted they had to be careful because Louisville was on probation.

"We gotta be very low key," said the coach, according to the FBI.

Investigators said agents wiretapped a call in which Gatto and another defendant discussed an unidentified coach at Miami requesting that Adidas pay as much as $150,000 to another recruit, in part to prevent him from accepting a similar offer from a rival apparel company.

Louisville interim president Gregory Postel confirmed the university has been informed it is part of the investigation and said, "Any violations will not be tolerated."

Miami said it will cooperate with authorities, while USC said it appointed former FBI Director Louis J. Freeh to conduct an internal investigation.

The investigation began after Martin Blazer, a Pittsburgh-based financial adviser to pro athletes, began cooperating with authorities in 2014. Blazer, accused by the Securities and Exchange Commission of taking money from clients without permission, pleaded guilty this month to fraud and other crimes.

He admitted making payments and loans to NCAA athletes as far back as 2000 to get them to hire him.

Person, associate head coach at Auburn, was drafted by the Indiana Pacers in 1986 and played for five NBA teams over 13 seasons.

Prosecutors said Person accepted about $91,500 in bribes from Blazer last year to steer clients to him when they reached the NBA. Some payments were alleged to have been arranged by Michel, a former NBA referee turned high-end clothier.

Person was quoted by prosecutors as telling one player: "The most important part is that you ... don't say nothing to anybody ... don't share with your sisters, don't share with any of the teammates, that's very important `cause this is a violation ... of rules. But this is how the NBA players get it done."

Saturday deadline for federations going to Mini Games

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White is reminding all federations sending athletes, coaches, and officials to the 2017 Pacific Mini Games to submit their requirements in time for Saturday's deadline.

The 10th edition of the Mini Games is set from Dec. 4 to 15 in Port Vila, Vanuatu with the CNMI competing in 3x3 basketball, athletics, golf, rugby 7s, and weightlifting.

NMSA had established the Sept. 30 deadline for the CNMI delegation's accreditation to give White the chance to make sure all their documents are complete and would not encounter any problems in getting certified from the hosts.

"Please note the final and immutable deadline for accrediting athletes is Oct. 20. However, in order to promote good planning, minimize any possible uncorrectable mistakes, and avoid a last-minute crush, NMSA has established a Sept. 30 deadline to accredit all CNMI athletes," said White.

"I will do my best to accommodate you after that date, but I cannot guarantee that your athletes will be accredited," he added.

The five federations competing in the Vanuatu Mini Games could submit and have as many athletes accredited. They could trim down their selections at a later date, but could no longer add an athlete or official after the Oct. 20 deadline.

White would only need the name and capacity—an athlete, coach, or official—for those who have been previously accredited in Micronesian Games, Pacific Games, or Mini Games. For first-timers, they must submit the business page of their passport and a passport size photo with white background and not wearing a hat.

The Vanuatu Mini Games is the scaled down version of the Pacific Games. It was originally set in September, but Cyclone Pam delayed the preparations being done by the organizing committee. Archery, beach volleyball, boxing, football, judo, karate, netball, table tennis, and tennis are the other sports on the Mini Games calendar.

Richard Sikkel is the CNMI's chef de mission and would be in charge of arranging the delegation's accommodations at the Athletes Village, the daily meals, and transportation to and from the venues, and supervise all the team's other needs.

Cowboys try building on win after anthem display, slow start

FRISCO, Texas (AP) Jerry Jones says the Dallas Cowboys could be on to something after the owner persuaded his players to kneel together before the national anthem and stand during the song when the flag was displayed.

What the Cowboys did once the game against Arizona started could reverberate for them on and off the field.

Dallas recovered from a slow start after the unique display among many NFL responses to President Donald Trump's criticism and beat the Cardinals 28-17 on Monday night a week after another sluggish first half for the defending NFC East champs in a 42-17 loss to Denver.

Speaking on his radio show Tuesday, Jones said he told his players to trust him that such an approach could work as a way to avoid criticism for what some see as disrespect for the flag and the country.

"It wouldn't surprise me if the participation and the recognition of unity and recognition of equality, it wouldn't surprise me if that were a template going forward in the NFL," Jones said.

Coach Jason Garrett said the Cowboys have to figure out how much of their latest slow start had to do with them spending the 48 hours before the game deciding how to respond to Trump's suggestion that NFL players who kneel during the anthem should be fired.

Players, coaches and staff held several meetings, and many of those people joined in the display. That included Jones and members of his family arm-in-arm with players in the middle of the field near the 50-yard line as boos rang out across University of Phoenix Stadium.

AP
Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant (88) is hit by Arizona Cardinals cornerback Patrick Peterson during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017, in Glendale, Ariz.

The Cowboys rose, still arm-in-arm, and stepped back to the sideline as the flag was unfurled across the field, followed by Jordin Sparks singing the anthem.

"I do think there was really good intensity and a really good look in the eyes of our players," Garrett said. "They did not seem distracted to me. But again, you have to go out there and play."

In their past two first quarters combined, the Cowboys have run 15 plays for 54 yards. All they had against the Cardinals was one three-and-out possession totaling 3 yards as the defense struggled as well.

But quarterback Dak Prescott ended up with an inspiring head-over-heels flip at the goal line on a 10-yard scoring run and two touchdown passes. Receiver Dez Bryant carried several defenders into the end zone with a helpful push from center Travis Frederick.

And 2016 NFL rushing champion Ezekiel Elliott finally had his first long run and touchdown of the season.

"Our team just became closer," said 15th-year tight end Jason Witten , a staunch supporter of standing for the anthem. "I know these guys over the weekend there were a lot of different decisions. Some guys felt the need, they knelt. I can respect that decision."

Garrett sidestepped a question on whether the Cowboys would do something similar Sunday against the Los Angeles Rams in their first home game since the display.

The Dallas coach praised his team's ability to balance game preparation with multiple discussions over the Trump-fueled issues, despite the slow start.

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Vanuatu this December.

In the men's open division, eight teams will fight for the Pacific Mini Games slots and the bragging rights in the inaugural 3x3 tournament. Saipan leg champion the Ol'Aces lead the list and are in Pool A along with fellow Saipan qualifier Almost, Rota's 4 Musketers, and Tinian's Busta. Saipan leg semifinalists Paki 3, Nik Nak, Old Skool, and Tinian's Alpha Males are in Pool B.

In the women's open division, it will be an-all Saipan battle with first leg champion Fab IV tagged as the early favorites against CTSI, Blue Babes, and HiDaze.

In the boys U19 division, Team Luta is in Pool A along with Saipan leg winner V-God and the Warriors. Tinian's Typhoon will battle Big B's and Island3rz in Pool B. The Typhoon is also playing in the girls U19 division, joining Hilitai, Lady Ol'Aces and Dandan Middle School.

For the boys U15 division, there will be six competitors with Saipan leg top finisher Ballers Bros, Typhoon 2, and Young Ballers in Pool A and Boonk Gang, D-Squad, and the Ol'Aces in Pool B.

A mandatory captains meeting will be held tomorrow at 5:30pm at the conference room of the Ada Gym, while matches will start at 9:30am this Saturday after the 8:30am opening ceremony. Preliminary games will be played on Saturday, while title matches are set for Sunday.

Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is hosting the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017, which is supported by All Star Sporting Goods, Borderline, Reps. Donald Barcinas, Ivan Blanco, Larry Guerrero, and J.P. Sablan, Saipan Mayor David Apatang, Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, and Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicholas; Triple J Saipan, Hertz Rent A Car, Friendly Market, Green Consume Market, Imperial Pacific, Inc. (CSR), I Love Saipan, Docomo Pacific, Pacific Trading Co., Kanoa Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Fiesta Resort, Kan Pacific (Marianas Resort), Jet Holdings, Uprooted CNMI, Northern Marianas Athletics, Atkins Kroll, Restaurant 360, and Pacifica Insurance.

TWO

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young guns to down the Green Archers, 94-87.

Raymond Velasco, Price Factor, and Dan Mateo combined for about half of Gold Ballers' production to hand their team its first victory. Velasco scored 19 points, Factor recorded 16, while Mateo fired 14. Arvin Avilla completed Gold Ballers' balance scoring, adding 11, while Kevin Leomo and Brian Manabat posted 9 and 6, respectively.

Frank Ferrer was at the forefront of the Green Archers' offense anew after sizzling for 29 points, but just like in their debut loss to Tropang Ridhors, the shooting guard did not get enough support from his teammates. Boyet Arreza finished with 13 points, but his baskets were scattered, while Bart Demapan had a quiet 10 markers.

First Game

Gold Ballers 94— Velasco 19, Factor 16, Mateo 14, Cortez 12, Avilla 11, Leomo 9, Manabat 6, Usi 3.

Green Archers 87 — Ferrer 29, Arreza 13, Demapan 10, Rotap 8, Enriquez 8, Tolentino 7, Danipog 4, Pestillos 1.

Third Game

Batang Bear Brand 81 — Spott 19, Che 17, Gamboa 14, Achas 13, Esdrelon 6, Ariar 4, Flores 4.

Spigen 73 — Pagarao 17, Flores 13, Tobias 11, Berline 11, Cortes 6, Umali 5, Marilla 2, Sanciangco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-9, 30-26, 51-44, 81-73.

MATANSA

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scored in the 49th, 51st, and 63rd minute. Poon earlier got his first goal in the 33rd minute, while Anthony Fruit and Joshua Abragan handed MP United one goal, lighting up the board in the second and 31st minute, respectively.

In other results in the boys U17 division, the National Developing Academy edged Paire, 2-1.

Joshua Galarion drilled the pair of goals for NDA with his first registered right in the second minute of the closely fought match. His second and last came in the 53rd minute, while Paire drew its lone goal from Royce Angelo Ben in the 30th.

GIRLS U15 DIVISION
Shirley's 3, Kanoa 1

Defending champion Shirley's made it three in a row after beating Kanoa at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field last weekend.

Katherine Magat had a brace for the undefeated Shirley's, while Valeria Myers chipped in one goal. Magat logged her pair of goals in the 37th and 40th minute, while Myers scored in the 10th. Kanoa avoided a shutout, thanks to Paulynn Joyce's shot in the 25th minute.

Southern United 9, Matansa 0

Southern United crushed Matansa in the first game in the division last Saturday.

Jerlyn Castillo had a hat trick to lead Southern United's easy win. She made back-to-back goals in the 25th and 26th minute and got her third in the 45th. Marinel Falamlimpa and Mariana Castro contributed two goals each, while Keisha Deleon Guerrero and Jenish Dubral chipped in one apiece.

MP United 4, TanHoldings 2

Stella McCallion powered MP United to a victory over TanHoldings in the last match in the division.

McCallion also had a hat trick, as she put MP United on the board right in the opening minute of the game and then dropped two more goals in the 40th and 57th. MP United's other goal came from Audrey Castro in the 15th minute.

TanHoldings, on the other hand, drew one goal each from Mary Joy Aniana and Lovely Joy Loyola.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	91	66	.580	—
z-New York	88	69	.561	3
Tampa Bay	76	81	.484	15
Toronto	75	83	.475	16½
Baltimore	75	83	.475	16½

Central Division

x-Cleveland	98	59	.624	—
Minnesota	83	74	.529	15
Kansas City	77	80	.490	21
Chicago	64	93	.408	34
Detroit	62	95	.395	36

West Division

x-Houston	97	60	.618	—
Los Angeles	78	79	.497	19
Seattle	77	81	.487	20½
Texas	76	81	.484	21
Oakland	72	85	.459	25

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Washington	95	62	.605	—
Miami	74	83	.471	21
Atlanta	71	86	.452	24
New York	68	90	.430	27½
Philadelphia	63	95	.399	32½

Central Division

Chicago	88	69	.561	—
Milwaukee	83	74	.529	5
St. Louis	82	75	.522	6
Pittsburgh	72	85	.459	16
Cincinnati	66	91	.420	22

West Division

x-Los Angeles	101	57	.639	—
y-Arizona	91	67	.576	10
Colorado	85	73	.538	16
San Diego	70	88	.443	31
San Francisco	62	96	.392	39

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

MP Light players pose for a photo with sponsors Rob Harrell, left, and Cecille Camama, second left, during the opening ceremony for the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Sept. 16 at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Batang Beer Brand players gather for a group photo.

Silencer players and league sponsors pose for the camera.

Green Minded players join the parade of teams.

Black Mamba players pose with their muse.

White Haus players are all smiles while waiting for the start of the league.

Spigen players lineup for the parade of teams.

Gold Ballers players have their photo taken during the opening ceremony.

Dodgers rout Padres to clinch NL home field

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Sports

Wade to sign with Cavs, reunite with LeBron

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Matansa, MP United shut down foes

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa Football Club's Joshua De Leon, right, receives a pass from his teammate, while MP United FC's Jonah Pohl stays close on defense during their earlier game in the boys U17 division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It was cruise control for MP United Football Club and Matansa FC as they dominated their respective opponents in the boys U17 division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

MP United clobbered Kanoa FC in the second game, 11-0, while Matansa whipped Tan-Holdings in the curtain-raiser, 4-0.

Three players teamed up in handing Matansa its first win of the season after dropping its opener early this month against the unbeaten MP United. Brandon Delos Reyes and Louie Calayag scored one goal apiece, while Joshua De Leon made a pair. De Leon's goals were all recorded in the second half with his first logged in the 55th minute and the second in the 70th. Delos Reyes drew first blood for Matansa with his conversion in the 35th minute, while Calayag found the back of the net two minutes later.

In the MP United-Kanoa lopsided match, Sunjoon Tenorio and Skyler Poon were unstoppable for the former. Tenorio knocked in five goals, three of them came in succession with the first posted in the 67th minute and the last two in the 69th and 70th. Tenorio's two other goals were tallied in the sixth and 45th minute.

Poon duplicated Tenorio's string of three goals in the second half, as he

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28 squads to play in Hoopfest Marianas finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The stage is set for the final round of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 with 28 teams from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota playing in the weekend competition at the Gilbert C. Ada Gynasium.

The participating squads are divided into five groups with teams entered in the men's and women's open categories having the chance to represent the CNMI in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Fab IV's Eleina Santos, right, is fouled by HiDaze's Mary Kay Alferos during their title game in the Saipan leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 held early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Two in a row for BBB; Gold Ballers wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Batang Bear Brand gained a share of the lead, while Gold Ballers got its first win in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

BBB defeated Spigen, 81-73, to improve to a 2-0 record and join Tropang Ridhors at the top of the team standings in the 12-squad field.

After a lackluster start, BBB picked up its scoring in the last three quarters to make it two in a row. BBB was held to three field goals in the first period to face a manageable 8-9 deficit. Jeff Che, Joseph Achas, Peter Ariar, and Hal Spott, who scored 7 in the opening canto, joined forces in the second period to turn the tables on Spigen, 30-26.

Spott and Che continued to contribute to BBB's cause in the second half and this time they drew support from Ronnel Gamboa, who tallied all his 14 markers in the final two quarters of the game. Spott ended up top-scoring for BBB with his 18 points, while Che added 17. Achas was the fourth BBB player to break into double figures with his 13 markers.

Spigen got 17 from Lerio Pagarao, while Adrian Flores chipped in 13, and Ferdie Tobias and Bruce Berline registered 11 apiece.

In other results, Gold Ballers leaned on its

See TWO on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Batang Bear Brand player, second left, drives against Vendetta defenders during their opening game in the Ali'i Blue Haus caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.